FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 JANUARY 1984

Jordan

In a series of royal decrees broadcast by Amman television, King Husayn dissolved the old Senate and appointed a new one, reconvened the dissolved House of Representatives, and called Parliament as a whole to meet on 16 January. Another decree reported by the television appointed former Foreign Minister Marwan Sidqi al-Qasim chief of the Royal Hashemite Court. Meanwhile, the new Cabinet under Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat held its first session to discuss the Parliament's working plan, according to Amman radio.

In another development, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf in a telephone statement to the Kuwait paper *AL-WATAN* characterized the new government and its amendment of the Constitution as "political, not organizational," and asserted that Jordan's moves "do not harm the Palestinian representation." Khalaf also confirmed that a senior Palestinian delegation will visit Jordan soon to acquaint King Husayn with the Palestinian stand. According to *AD-DUSTUR*, Khalil al-Wazir is expected in Amman on 15 January for meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian committee scheduled to begin the following day.

PLO Affairs

PFLP, Fatah Dissident Statements — The PFLP, in a statement issued in Damascus after its Central Committee's session, condemned PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo as a "calculated step aimed at preparing the PLO to enter the U.S. settlement plan," Radio Monte Carlo reported. The statement called for the formation of the broadest possible Palestinian front, including "all the national factions," to confront the line of "deviation and capitulation," and charged that 'Arafat's visit deprives him of the right to lead the PLO.

Earlier, in a speech at Nahr al-Barid camp in Lebanon reported by the Beirut paper *AS-SAFIR*, Fatah dissident leader Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha said his forces will not give up their presence in Lebanon because they intend to fight Israel and consider that "the only means for achieving victories is the gun."

Fatah Revolutionary Council — The Fatah Revolutionary Council ended its meetings in Tunis and issued a statement expressing confidence in 'Arafat but stressing that he must pursue rapprochement with Egypt and Jordan only "within certain limits," Radio Monte Carlo reported. The council approved the Fatah Central Committee's stand toward 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and on the issue of relations with Egypt, SPA disclosed.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad received Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abdelouahid Belkeziz, who delivered a message from King Hassan II concerning the forthcoming Islamic summit conference, Damascus radio reported. Syria agreed to participate in the summit and will send a delegation headed by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Radio Monte Carlo said. Meanwhile, Khaddam held talks with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, who arrived in Syria after holding talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal in Riyadh, according to Damascus radio and SPA.

In another development, Radio Monte Carlo quoted the Syrian daily *ATH-THAWRAH*'s sharp attack on King Husayn's latest moves, asserting that they will turn Jordan into "an Israeli protectorate" and a stage for anti-Syrian plots. Describing the new Jordanian position as "more threatening" to the Arabs than the Camp David accords, *ATH-THAWRAH* said Syria will not tolerate the appearance of a "new As-Sadat" on its southern borders and will take "appropriate measures" to prevent this.

Lebanon

Lebanese Army positions came under fire and there were clashes in several areas of Beirut, according to Beirut radio, which also reported a bomb explosion 50 meters from the French Embassy, causing material damage. Another bomb was discovered and defused. Meanwhile, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that, according to "security sources," a bomb-laden truck now in the city's southern suburb will be used for a "terrorist operation." Elsewhere in the country Iranians and Islamic Amal Movement fighters vacated positions in Ba'labakk in the wake of an "escalation of popular wrath" against them, Voice of Lebanon radio stated. In the south, Israeli forces opened the Al-Awwali River crossings to "free traffic," no longer demanding the presentation of crossing permits, according to Jerusalem radio, but Beirut radio later reported the crossings closed on 12 January. An IDF spokesman cited by the radio said that a new terminal under construction and special check and control procedures will allow security forces at the crossings to "more efficiently spot" materials for sabotage and warfare.

Iran

Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in comments reported by Tehran radio, stated that chemical weapons used by Iraq against Iranian forces were supplied by the British Government. He warned "all arrogant enemies" of Iran that "their hostile policies will not be unanswered."

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Baghdad PLO Radio on Revolutionary Council Meetings
JN111150 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1540 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Radio correspondent dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council will meet in Tunis today. This is the first meeting following the second departure from Lebanon that was the result of the Syrian decision to prevent the Palestinian revolution's forces from confronting the Zionist enemy. The Revolutionary Council's meeting was preceded by a PLO Executive Committee meeting in the presence of brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and under his chairmanship, and in the absence of some of the Palestinian factions' representatives who submitted to the Syrian and Libyan pressures, paid the price of their leaders presence in Damascus, or linked themselves with the Syrian policy.

It is known that a Fatah Central Committee meeting preceded the PLO Executive Committee meeting. The Fatah Central Committee has issued its statement which determined the general policy, the Fatah Movement's programs, and the Palestinian revolution's march in its struggle against the Zionist enemy and the enemies of the Palestinian people.

The meeting of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, which is the highest authority in the Fatah movement, has an agenda full of important and fateful issues that the Fatah movement will implement to serve the Palestinian revolution's march and to promote its struggle in all fields and on all levels.

The Revolutionary Council will discuss the organizational situation and the situation of the Palestinian military forces that are present in many Arab countries. The Council will also discuss the information action of the Palestinian revolution, the means to promote this action, especially after the Tripoli battle, and the support for the Palestinian media. The Fatah Revolutionary Council will also discuss brother leader Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo and his talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. In addition to this, the Fatah Revolutionary Council will decide the issue of dealing with the traitor dissidents and take practical measures against the dissidents and those organziations that supported them — organizations that are linked with the officials Syrian circles — such as the PFLP-GC, As-Sa'iqah, and other groups that called themselves the opposition forces while in fact they are controlled by the Syrian regime, especially since some of their leaders have put themselves up as an alternative to the legitimate Palestinian institutions and attempted to ignore their resolutions. We mean, in addition to Jibril and As-Sa'iqah, there are some fronts whose ieaders dared not arrive in Tripoli, accepted to follow the Syrian method in expressing their stands and ignored the norms of our democratic arena.

The meetings of the Fatah Central Committee, The PLO Executive Committee, the Palestinian revolution's Higher Military Council, the Fatah Revolutionary Council today, and the PNC in the near future, all the meetings of the Fatah organizational frameworks and institutions, and all the meetings of the Palestinian revolution's factions have frustrated the hopes of all those who deviated from the Palestinian national consensus and confirmed to the world that the doors of the Palestinian house are always open for any one who is concerned about the national and pan-Arab stand. The Palestinian house is also open for all those who accuse it on false bases or due to their submission to some regimes' desires — regimes that possess only their statements and comments with which to confront the enemy and reject the U.S. policy. Our people have realized that these statements and comments are false and that those who make them are traitors who betrayed the Palestinian cause, relinquished the Arab land in the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon to the Zionist enemy, and allowed a U.S. hegemony over their stands and decisions.

The Palestinian masses inside and outside the occupied territory and the Arab masses, out of their realization that Fatah is the pillar of the Palestinian revolution, its political and military power, and the guarantee for its independent decisionmaking,are looking forward to the Fatah Revolutionary Council meetings with confidence and hope. The Council's statement at the conclusion of its meetings will reflect that Fatah will continue to abide by the continuation of the revolution, the entrenchment of the armed struggle against the enemy, and the political struggle with all its dimensions as a revolution's course in order to achieve the objectives of this people in determining their destiny and establishing their independent state under their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO.

Resolution Adopted
NC120906 Paris AFP in English 0854 GMT 12 Jan 84

[By Abdelhamid Magouri]

[Text] Tunis, Jan 12 (AFP) — Yasir 'Arafat managed to emerge all but unscathed today from his much-criticized visit last month to Cairo, as his faction of the PLO's divided Fatah movement renewed its confidence in the PLO leader while implicitly seeking to set limits to his initiatives with Egypt and Jordan.

In addition, a resolution approved last night at the end of a Fatah Revolutionary Council meeting here contained new, harsh condemnations of the dissidents within Fatah, who forced Mr. 'Arafat's loyalists out of Tripoli, Lebanon last month.

The measure by the Revolutionary Council, which serves as an intermediary between Fatah's Central Committee leadership and its general membership, offered no conciliatory message that might be aimed at resolving the split within the Palestine Liberation Organization's rank and file.

Indeed, it reaffirmed the decision two months ago to exclude 10 dissident leaders, and repeated a blanket attack on Syria and Libya.

Thus, the resolution appeared to back Mr. 'Arafat's line almost completely. Concerning his meeting in Cairo last December 22 with Egypt's president, Husni Mubarak, the Revolutionary Council simply "affirmed its accord" with a Fatah Central Committee meeting January 5 in Tunis.

At that meeting, the Central Committee implicitly agreed with the 'Arafat explanation that he was seeking a way to bring Egypt

back into the Arab family, from which it has been excluded since its 1978 peace accord with Israel.

In its communique, the Central Committee implicitly — and somewhat timidly — criticized only the form of the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting, not its substance.

That communique was approved despite strong criticism from several PLO factions, including George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the disavowal of the Cairo visit "as a personal initiative" by Mr. 'Arafat's own deputy, Abu Iyad.

But analysts saw in last night's reaffirmation of the Central Committee statement — which used the expression "personal initiative" to describe the 'Arafat visit — an attempt to gently remind Mr. 'Arafat that there must be limits to his contacts with Egypt.

The same effort was seen in the section on Jordan. The revolutionary Council stated "its agreement" with new efforts at Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, but with an eye toward creation of an independent Palestinian state under the PLO.

This seemed to preclude any chance for Mr. 'Arafat to discuss with King Husayn President Ronald Reagan's peace plan of September 1982. That proposal calls for a Palestinian-Jordanian "association," not an independent state.

Concerning Monday's reactivation of the Jordanian Parliament and the stated plans for elections, the Revolutionary Council expressed hope that the measures would not compromise the 1974 Arab Summit in Rabat, which made the PLO the sole representative of Palestinian interests on the West Bank.

The attack on the Fatah dissidents, Syria and Libya was perhaps the clearest demonstration of Mr.'Arafat's hold on the PLO mainstream, analysts said.

In language all but identical in tone to that used frequently by the PLO leader, the Revolutionary Council assailed the "plot perpetrated by the Syrian and Libyan regimes against the Palestinian people and their national cause."

It also denounced "all the voices and leaders of Palestinian movements who participated in this aggression against the Palestinian people in northern Lebanon, in the al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps, as well as in Tripoli."

These palestinians were, it said, "criminal elements who were used to cover the Syrian-Libyan plot."

It reaffirmed the decision in November to exclude 10 dissidents, including anti-'Arafat leader colonel Abu Musa, from Fatah.

Last night's resolution also repeated the PLO'S rejection of the Israeli-Lebanese troops withdrawal accord, reached last May 17, and said that a special panel had been created to prepare a general Fatah meeting. No date or venue was set for that congress.

Compromise Seen Emerging

PM101307 Paris LE MONDE in French 10 Jan 84 p 4

[Eric Rouleau dispatch: "A Compromise Is Emerging in Tunis Between Supporters and Opponents of Mr 'Arafat's Visit to Cairo"]

[Text] Tunis — The crisis within the PLO is marking time. An agreement in principle was reached on Sunday 8 January between the Fatah Central Committee and the representatives of three opposition organizations for a top-level meeting to be held shortly. Its aim will be to settle the conflict engendered by Mr Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo in December.

The short communique issued on this subject by the PFLP, DFLP, and Communist Party delegates — who returned to Damascus on Sunday — reflects the compromise that made it possible to avoid a split.

The loyalists, the document states in substance, conceed that the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting carries the risk of a "slide" which would lead the Fatah federation to take the path of the Camp David agreement and the Reagan plan. In exchange for that the communique says nothing about the opposition organizations' demand that the PLO chairman be fired immediately as a precondition for any dialogue.

Avoiding Collapse

It is true that it was agreed that the planned meeting between the leaderships of the various organizations concerned would exclude their general secretaries especially Mr 'Arafat.

"The essential thing in our view is not the political future of a particular official," DFLP Politburo member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and Communist Party Politburo member Sulayman Najjar told us. "If it is approved by our leaders in Damascus the planned meeting would have the essential task of reaffirming and explaining the political line defined at the last PNC session. Measures ought also to be taken to prevent any deviation similar to the one of which Yasir 'Arafat has just been guilty."

It is clear that the two sides are trying to avoid a split which is likely to damage them too. The three opposition organizations fear that a possible split might increase their dependence on Syria.

Some Fatah Central Committee members, for their part, fear that a break with the resistance federation's left wing might spark off a series of desertions from their own organization.

Indeed the faction hostile to Mr 'Arafat within Fatah has not been pacified judging from statements made behind the scenes by military and political cadres anxious about the intentions which they attribute — rightly or wrongly — to their leader.

If, as President Reagan wishes, he were to abandon the creation of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and in Gaza, they say, they would have no hesitation in joining opposition ranks. Following the example of various popular associations which are members of the PLO, especially the Confederation of

Workers' Trade Unions, the Union of Journalists and Writers, the women's union and the students' union, the Federation of Palestinian Teachers (95,000 members) announced on Sunday 8 January, through its secretary general who was in Tunis, that it condemned the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting as "contrary to the PNC's resolutions."

The PLO chairman does not seem excessively worried by the grumbling among his supporters. He is imperturbable as he tirelessly pursues his activities in the suburbs of Tunis. On Saturday and Sunday he chaired Fatah Central Committee meetings which related as much to the resistance's internal crisis as to the development of the situation in the Near East, especially in Jordan.

The return to parliamentary life in Amman is a source of anxiety since the Palestinian deputies on the kingdom's two banks (the West Bank and Transjordan) might one day be called upon to join or even replace the PLO in possible negotiations.

Before going to Amman to resume his talks with King Husayn, Mr 'Arafat was due to make a short visit to Algiers this Monday 9 January where he may have talks with President Chadli Bendjedid.

DFLP's Hawatimah, PFLP's Habash Arrive in Algiers

LD121102 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Algiers, 12/1/84 (APS) — Messrs Nayif Hawatimah and George Habash, respectively secretary general of Palestine Liberation Democratic Front (FDLP) and secretary general of Palestine Liberation Popular Front (FPLP) arrived yesterday in Algiers.

In a declaration to the national press, Messrs Nayif Hawattmah and George Habash put a stress on the situation lived at present by the Palestinian cause at the internal and the external plan and the imperialist plots aimed at weakening the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian people, they stressed, is determined to carry on the fight by mobilizing itself around the PLO and its programme adopted during the last session of the Palestinian National Council held in Algiers. The Palestinian revolution they carried on will sooner or later triumph over imperialism and Zionism.

As a conclusion, Messrs Hawatimah and Habash pointed out the necessity to abide by decisions of the session of Algiers which insisted upon the coming back, the self-determination and the Palestinian people's right to the establishment of its independent state.

PFLP Issues Statement on 'Arafat Cairo Visit

JN111803 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] An important PFLP statement was issued in Damascus today. The statement says that during the past 2 days, the PFLP Central Committee held an extraordinary session in Damascus under the chairmanship of Dr George Habash. The statement strongly condemns and denounces 'Arafat's visit to Cairo. The statement considers the visit as not a passing event or an individual error or a slip which may be abandoned, but a well calculated step aimed at preparing the PLO to enter into the U.S. settlement plan.

The statement considers 'Arafat's visit a serious national deviation because it means 'Arafat's switch to a serious deviationist position. The visit, the statement adds, constitutes a flagrant violation of the PNC resolutions and a challenge to all the PLO legitimate institutions. The statement says that the visit will be followed by other moves and steps that are connected with it, with the intention of entering into the framework of the U.S. solution through a partnership between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat.

The PFLP statement says that the Cairo meeting strips 'Arafat off his full legitimacy and the right to lead the PLO. It states that the Palestinian people's masses and the revolution factions, which have become fed up with 'Arafat's individualistic methods and decisions, can no longer tolerate these practices which have caused great harm to and created confusion in the Palestinian arena. The statement notes that following 'Arafat's visit to Egypt, the Jordanian monarch announced his decision to recall the Jordanian Parliament which includes representatives from the occupied West Bank. The statement says that this decision is in line with the current moves to complete the U.S. settlement plan.

The PFLP affirmed that it will confront the deviationist policy, calling on Palestinians everwhere to confront this step and face the policy of capitulation. The Front called for the formation of the broadest possible Palestinian national front to include all the national factions, forces, unions, and personages in order to face the line of deviation and capitulation. The statement considers this to be an urgent national issue. The PFLP stressed the need to remove Yasir 'Arafat from the chairmanship of the PLO Executive Committee adding that this has become an ungent national duty.

The PFLP Central Committee also adopted a number of important resolutions in the military field in order to escalate armed struggle inside and outside the occupied homeland. Observers believe that when formed, this broad, expanded Palestinian front will compete with Yasir 'Arafat's organization in Tunis in leading the Palestinian people.

Islamic Foreign Ministers To Prepare for Summit

PM111547 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Jan 84 p 1

[Talhah Jibril report: "90 Topics on Islamic Conference Agenda"]

[Text] Rabat — Meetings of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers will open here tomorrow, Thursday, preparatory to the fourth Islamic summit to be held in Casablanca, Morocco's economic capital, on 16 January.

The foreign ministers conference will determine the summit agenda and will decide on certain matters referred to it by the Islamic conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that more than 90 topics will be discussed at foreign minister level, after which it will be decided which topics are to be referred to the Islamic summit.

Among the most important topics to be discussed by the summit are the situation in the Middle East,Palestinian developments, the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in Cyprus following the declaration of a Turkish state, developments in the Horn of Africa, the question of giving the Eritreans the status of full observer,and the election of a new secretary general for the Islamic Conference Organization to succeed Habib Chatti in addition to questions of economic and cultural cooperation between the member states.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that an Asian from Pakistan or Bangladesh is likely to be elected to the general secretaryship since the Africans and the Arabs have already occupied this post in previous terms.

On the other hand all the 42 member states of the Islamic Conference Organization are expected to participate in the fourth summit with the exception of Iran, with whom intensive contacts are being made in order to persuade it to attend. It was learned in this regard that Syria and Pakistan are making efforts in this respect.

Fatah Official on 'Arafat Islamic Summit Activities

JN111443 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1312 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis, 11 Jan (INA) — Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ghunaym], member of the Fatah Central Committee, has said that the PLO will participate in the Islamic summit with a delegation to be headed by Yasir 'Arafat.

Abu Mahir told the INA correspondent in Tunis that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has left for Morocco to prepare for the delegation's visit. He added that a number of the PLO Executive Committee members will follow him later. He said that the PLO had entrusted its Political Department to prepare a Palestinian working paper on Palestinian developments following the departure from Tripoli. This is in addition to other topics that are listed on the Islamic summit's agenda. He noted that 'Arafat will hold intensive meetings with Arab and Islamic kings and heads of state during the Islamic summit in order to discuss the current situation of the Palestine question.

Answering a question posed to him by the INA correspondent concerning the tasks of the two committees that Fatah formed to study the initiation of dialogue with Egypt and Jordan, Abu Mahir said that the dialogue with Jordan will be based on the decisions of the PNC and the Fes Arab summit. Concerning Egypt, it is expected that the committee will discuss the means to restore Egypt to the Arab fold and to draw up a plan in this regard in order to shift Egypt away from the issues that led to the adoption of the current Arab stand against it.

Abu Mahir explained that the Fatah-Egyptian dialogue will take place in coordination with the PLO Executive Committee, which is the framework for foreign political action.

With regard to the Fatah Revolutionary Council's meetings that are currently being held here, Abu Mahir said that a political statement is expected to be issued later today which will define the political stand on the current developments.

UAE Paper on Arab News Agencies Conference

GF111218 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 11 Jan 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Arab Information Strategy"]

[Text] The Arab News Federation (FANA) has just concluded a meeting in Kuwait when it elected a new president for the current year. It also approved the federation's budget, agreed on some training courses and accepted a proposal to hold the fourth conference between Arab and European news agencies in Paris later this year. Although devoted largely to organisational matters, the meeting has nevertheless served to focus attention once again on the need to develop Arab news agencies and increase cooperation amongst them as part of the continuing effort both to lessen dependence upon foreign news sources and project the Arab viewpoint more vigorously. Significant progress has already been made in the field of news dissemination in the Arab world. Apart from the already well-established news agencies in countries like Egypt, Lebanon and Syria, the recent growth of newspapers in many other states has led to the setting up of many new wire and radio and television services. In the Gulf itself, every member-country of the AGCC [Arab Gulf Cooperation Council] now has its own news agency, and there is, besides, the International Islamic News Agency and the oil-information-oriented OPECNA. These agencies have filled the need for regional news and become a reliable means of information on developments in the Gulf area. However, these as well as other Arab news agencies are far from a position where they could effectively compete with Western-based services where international developments are concerned, and, therefore, we continue to have to rely on a particular point of view for most of what we get to read on major world events. This is not something that relates merely to the Arab nation: Throughout the Third World, there is concern over the Western monopoly of information, and only last month, 45 journalists from 45 non-aligned countries had met in New Delhi to discuss the problem. UNESCO has already taken steps to initiate a new world information order, a step that is one of the reasons prompting the current U.S. disapproval of the organisation's policies.

The development of a viable non-aligned pool of information on which Arab and all other countries could draw upon depends upon a number of considerations — the availability of sufficiently trained cadres, improvements in telecommunications, finances to enable Third World news agencies to post their own men in important world capitals, the will calculatedly to end unnecessary reliance on Western sources and, not least, the creation in many countries of an atmosphere conducive to objective, credible and healthy journalism. Some of these problems may need a long time to be sorted out. But in the meantime — and this has particular relevance in the Arab context — must all

of us continue to countenance a situation where even for something that concerns us vitally, we should have to depend upon a foreign news agency despatch? It should be possible, for instance, for coverage of an OPEC conference to be done by Arab journalists who will be more interested in projecting their countries' viewpoint than the interests of the oil multinationals; similarly, if an Islamic or Arab conference is divided over an issue, it would be far better to get our own reports of it than to print the biased and often ill-informed comments of a Western reporter or show a Western produced television newsreel. And this is not something that is confined only to news reports. Even a cursory glance at the editorial pages of many newspapers will show articles on the Arab-Zionist struggle or the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance or the Palestinian conflict or other similar developments being published courtesy of foreign news syndicates, and this will continue to be the situation till an alternative is available. It is handicap from which English-language newspapers suffer more because of the dearth of news material in English — and this is not something that should be slurred over because the English-language press has a role to play in projecting the Arab viewpoint on the international scene.

There is, therefore, an obvious need to produce more interpretative and background articles on Arab affairs for use both regionally and abroad. Often even reporting tends to be sketchy, with our own news agencies and reporters giving the bare details of some meeting or the other without the events being put in proper perspective, and this underlines the continuing absence of a system of briefing of newsmen and editors about important developments. It must remain something of an enigma why many Third World leaders and politicians should be able to talk frankly to a Western reporter but refuse to brief journalists from their own countries. These are some of the shortcomings that should be seriously tackled, and small corrective steps in this direction would perhaps prove more effective in lessening the hold of Western agencies and news media than all the pious resolutions passed from time to time. Two months ago, Arab information ministers were reported to have prepared the outlines of a joint information strategy for consideration by the forthcoming Arab summit. Although the details of the strategy (typically) have not been published, it is to be hoped that some of the points mentioned here have been covered.

Military Operations in South Lebanon Reported

JN111743 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men carried out several daring operations against the Zionist occupation forces in southern Lebanon yesterday. The operations took place amid reports which said that a number of Zionist Knesset members had requested the occupation authorities to withdraw the Zionist forces from southern Lebanon in order to save the lives of the Zionist soldiers, following the escalation of the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men's operations in this area.

A group of the hero Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men attacked with rockets and machineguns the building of the Zionist occupation army command in An-Nabatiyah. The attack resulted in the killing or wounding of several Zionist soldiers and caused heavy damage to the building. Eyewitnesses said that Zionist helicopters were seen moving several injured Zionist soldiers to Zionist field hospitals. The Zionist occupation forces encircled the scene of the incident, stormed houses, and arrested a number of Palestinian and Lebanese citizens.

Several Zionist soldiers fell either killed or wounded by a mine that the hero Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men planted on Az-Zahrani road in southern Lebanon. The mine went off when a Zionist military convoy was passing by.

KUWAIT

Foreign Ministry Official on Foreign Policy

GF111200 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 11 Jan 84 p 3

[By staff reporter]

[Excerpts] The security of the Gulf region is the responsibility of its people, and can be achieved through a comprehensive and balanced growth in all fields and the Arab Gulf integration within the framework of Arab integration, Mr Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rashid, under secretary of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, told a symposium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

He said that Gulf security was an integral part of the overall Arab security which centered round the Arab people's continuing struggle against Zionism.

The Kuwaiti official, who was speaking on the "Current Issues in the Arabian Gulf" at the start of the 12th diplomatic symposium of the UAE Foreign Ministry yesterday, referred to the Palestinian conflict and the "history of injustices" to the Arab people of Palestine and said: "All Gulf countries are in a state of belligerency against the enemy entity" and there was more than one reason "why we should continue in that state."

The 20-minute lecture of Mr Rashid was followed by a lively question and answer session.

Answering a question on why Kuwait had not signed the Gulf security cooperation agreement, he said "the AGCC spirit is based on democracy which allows differences of opinion but not divergence in goals and targets. It is not necessary for AGCC states to have unanimity on all issues at all times. This is not just an economic or a cultural agreement, but concerns security, which is geared according to our own laws and requirements." He said: "We are committed to the AGCC and its goals, but would urge our Gulf brothers to understand our own internal requirements."

Another question concerned Kuwait's relations with the Soviet Union and the East bloc in general, and asked if their growth did not pose a danger to Gulf security. The under-secretary appeared irritated by the question and asked in a raised voice: "Danger? Threat? What threat?" He asked the questioner if he was aware that some Western countries, while outwardly professing hostility to the Soviet Union, had much more economic and cultural and social ties with the Soviets than anyone else.

"Kuwait is an Arab and a Muslim country and we shall never do anything or have relations with any country that harms our interests or the supreme Arab interests." he declared. "Iran, which is a contiguous neighbour of Russia, does not say anything about a "danger" from the north; then why should we, when we are 700 kms far down south?"

PDRY

YSP Central Committee Holds Fifth Meeting

GF111533 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The YSP Central Committee held its 5th meeting within the framework of its current 11th ordinary session, under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

During the fifth meeting, which was held this morning, the Central Committee discussed the annual evaluation report on the work of the Central Financial Inspection Committee of 1983. It also discussed the plan of the party leadership committees, the political offices, the Central Committee Secretariat, the Central Committee, the Supreme Party Supervision Committee, and the Central Financial Inspection Committee of 1984.

The Central Committee will resume the meetings of its 11th session tonight.

QATAR

Foreign Minister Leaves for Rabat 11 Jan

GF111504 Doha QNA in Arabic 1255 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 11 Jan (QNA) — Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf al-Thani left for Rabat today.

He is leading his country's delegation to the conference of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries, which will be held there on Thursday in order to pave the way for the fourth Islamic conference to be held in Casablanca on 16 January.

Oil Minister Meets With Venezuelan Counterpart

GF111711 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Doha, Jan 11, (WAKH) — Qatari Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah al-Thani met today with Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti and his delegation, currently visiting Qatar.

They reviewed oil bilateral relations and other topics concerning OPEC.

The Venezuelan minister arrived here earlier today on a visit to Qatar as part of his tour of a number of the OPEC member countries.

SAUDI ARABIA

Fahd, Delegation Leave for Rabat Conference

GF120506 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt]Since the Islamic summit conference is about to be held in fraternal Morocco, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz arrived there today in order to take part in the conference with his brother leaders of the fraternal Islamic states.

His majesty left from King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh yesterday evening.

Delegation Departs

LD111406 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1342 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Jan (SPA) — His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, this afternoon left Riyadh for Morocco leading the Kingdom's delegation to the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries, which opens tomorrow in Rabat to prepare for the fourth Islamic summit that opens on 16 January.

The delegation includes the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry for political affairs, 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri; the head of the Asian and African Department at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Abbas Ghazzawi; the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Isma'il ash-Shuri; and the head of His Royal Highness' office, Ambassador Hassan ash-Shawwaf.

UK Foreign Secretary Howe Concludes Visit

Received by King Fahd

LD111328 Riyadh SPA in English 1247 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, Jan. 11, SPA — HM King Fahd received here today the visiting British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

The royal audience was attended by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the British ambassador to the Kingdom, James Craig.

Talks Termed 'Valuable, Constructive'

LD111323 Riyadh SPA in English 1236 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text]Riyadh, Jan 11, SPA — Visiting British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal have described their talks as "valuable and constructive." Addressing a joint press conference here today, Prince Sa'ud said he discussed with his British guest bilateral relations in addition to issues of mutual concern.

Expressing his pleasure over Howe's visit, Prince Sa'ud said said it would further strengthen relations between the two countries and would contribute positively to issues of common concern.

"My talks with the British secretary have concentrated on the Middle East issue and developments in the region." Prince Sa'ud said.

"Our talks also have covered issues of mutual concern, and the situation in Lebanon," he added.

Prince Sa'ud expressed his satisfaction with the implementation of a security plan in Lebanon which would have its positive effects on the situation in the country.

For his part, Howe said he had valuable discussions with Prince Sa'ud and that they have covered important subjects of mutual interest. He described relations between the two countries as "very close and healthy," and said there had been frequent visits in both directions.

"I am glad that my first visit to the Middle East as foreign secretary included Saudi Arabia. I know from my last visit last year as chairman of the IMF Interim Committee what an influential role the Kingdom now plays in world affairs, financially as well as politically," Howe added.

He said the talks rightly devoted much time to the problems of the Middle East, adding that the two sides expressed concern on the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, called on the two warring nations to exercise restraint and backed resumption of moves to end the conflict as soon as possible.

Referring to the Lebanese issue, he said Prince Sa'ud briefed him on his discussions with the Lebanese and Syrian Governments.

"The security plan reflects this strenuous effort. We earnestly hope that all concerned will do everything in their power to make this agreement a reality," Howe said.

"This, of course, concerns the United Kingdom as a contributor to the multinational force. We have stressed that the MNF cannot stay indefinitely. But we think that it should remain while it is able to play a constructive part. Premature withdrawal will merely aggaravate the situation," he added.

Referring to the Middle East problem, he said there were encouraging signs after many months of stagnation.

"Like the Saudi Government, we are anxious to do all we can to build on any moves in the direction of realism and moderation," he said.

Howe said his country believed that the PLO must be associated with peace negotiations and called for the recognition of rights of all parties concerned, including the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Howe Departs

LD111411 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1338 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Jan (SPA) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and his accompanying delegation left Riyadh this afternoon after a 2-day visit to the Kingdom during which he held

talks with Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, which included a number of international issues of mutual interest and bilateral relations between the two countries.

He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Ministry Chief of Protocol Salim Sunbul, Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry Ma'mum al-Qabbani, and British ambassador to the Kingdom James Craig.

UAE

President Returns From Private Pakistan Visit

GF111946 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 11 Jan (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan returned to Abu Dhabi today after paying a private visit to Pakistan.

Mubarak Cables Recovery Wishes to King Husayn

NC111449 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA) — In a cable sent today to His Majesty King Husayn, monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak expressed best wishes to his majesty for a speedy recovery. The cable reads:

His Majesty King Husayn Ibn Talal, Monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I was disturbed to hear of Your Majesty's indisposition. I wish you a speedy recovery and implore the Almighty to give you good health and full vigor to continue your constructive efforts for the sake of the fraternal Jordanian people and the goals of our glorious Arab nation.

More on Saudi Prince Talal's Visit

On Relations With Egypt

LD120034 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA) — Chairman of the Gulf Development Program for supporting UN organizations and special UNICEF envoy, Prince Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz stressed that the differences between Arab countries and Egypt should not have had repercussions on relations between their peoples or on cooperation in the economic, social, and development fields.

In a statement to *AL-JUMHURIYAH* to appear in tomorrow's, Thursday's, issue, Prince Talal remarked: The next few months will be decisive for Arab-Egyptian relations. He warned that every passing day would be wasted if matters were left without being truly remedied.

Prince Talal said: What I have seen and heard from those Egyptian brothers who are officials or working in various fields gave me great pleasure, because they gave a true picture of what is taking place in Egypt regarding development projects being executed by President Husni Mubarak's government. It is a different picture from the one conveyed to us in Saudi Arabia by some schemers. Prince Talal stressed that he will work to support and back the social projects the Egyptian Government will implement, whether through the Arab Gulf states program, the UN organizations, or a third channel.

Regarding Gulf security, Prince Talal said there is a state of ferment in the entire Arab region because of past and present events.Therefore, Arab solidarity will help restabilize the area and deter any foreign intervention.

Departs 11 Jan

NC111558 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1537 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA) — Prince Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, chairman of the Arab Gulf Development Program for supporting the UN organizations and special UNICEF envoy, left Cairo for Riyadh this evening, following a 5-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

During his visit, Prince Talal met with Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; and some ministers.

Prince Talal was seen off by 'Abd al-Hamid Radwan, minister of culture and chairman of the escort mission accompanying the prince; members of the office in charge of Saudi interests in Cairo; UNICEF representatives; and senior state officials.

Reportage on Omani Foreign Minister's Visit

Al-'Alawi Statement on Talks

NC111500 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA) — Talks between Egypt and the Sultanate of Oman began today at noon at the Sheraton Heliopolis Hotel. The Egyptian delegation was headed by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Omani delegation was headed by Yusuf al-'Alawi, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The talks were initially confined to the two ministers and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Presidential Office director for political affairs and Foreign Ministry first under secretary. The talks, which continued for approximately 2 hours, dealt with Arab and international questions of concern to both countries.

After the talks Kamal Hasan 'Ali gave a luncheon in honor of the Omani guest and delegation accompanying him.

The Omani guest said that Arab solidarity means the solidarity of all Arab states without exception. Replying to a question he said: The absence of any Arab state from any meeting is a matter which must be discussed by the leaders. Al-'Alawi added that during the Islamic Summit, meetings will be held among the Arab leaders and among Arab leaders and heads of Muslim states.

'Ali on Talks

NC111512 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said his talks with Yusuf al-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, dealt with topics of mutual interest in the current phase, particularly the situation in the Middle East and the two countries' current and future diplomatic movements.

He added that a review was also made of the various efforts pertaining to the peace process and Arab solidarity in light of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt, the meeting of the Jordanian Parliament, and relations between Egypt and the Sultanate of Oman which, Al-'Alawi said, are good and extremely strong.

Ash-Shafi'i, Indian Envoy Discuss Israeli Policy

NC111508 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA) — Egypt continued its contacts today on the international level to resist Israeli contraventions in the occupied Arab territories and its attempts to impose some Israeli laws in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Within this framework Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Umran ash-Shafi'i met Indian Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Gonsalves and discussed this topic with him in light of the messages Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent Indian Minister of External Affairs Narasimha Rao in view of India's current chairmanship of the Nonaligned Movement.

Moreover, the meeting comes within the framework of consultations currently taking place between India and Egypt on the convocation of an extraordinary meeting of the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau on the basis that the Israeli attempts violate the Geneva and Hague agreements, the UN Charter, the peace framework, and human rights, and represent a type of racism similar to that of South Africa.

MAY Attacks Israeli Actions in Lebanon

PM111203 Cairo MAY in Arabic 9 Jan 84 p 2

[Salamah Ahmad Salamah "Cross Ideas" column: "Israeli Frustration"]

[Excerpts] Last week Israel once again resumed its indiscriminate strikes against a number of Lebanese positions in Ba'labakk and elsewhere on the pretext of wreaking vengeance on the Shi'ite elements which continue to launch attacks on the Israeli forces occupying southern Lebanon.

The Israeli attack was more cruel and savage than all previous attacks and resulted in the death of large numbers of children and innocent civilians who fell victim to Israel's inability to realize the serious consequences of its continued occupation of Lebanon. It is obvious that the Israelis' anger at their inability to halt attacks on the Israeli forces in southern Lebanon, especially in Sidon and Tyre, was the motive behind those reprisal attacks on the Shi'ite positions in Ba'labakk. It is also the motive for contemplating a reduction of the Israeli military presence in the area.

Although at the beginning of the invasion Israel succeeded in winning over some of the Shi'ite and Druze elements in southern Lebanon and making them cooperate with it against the Palestinian presence, it is certain that the Israeli plan has begun to meet failure and frustration after those very elements turned against the continued Israeli presence in the south, which has become the target of increasing nationalist fedayeen actions, and after it became clear that the Israelis have to pay the high price of their troops' lives. The immediate reaction to the barbaric Israeli raid on Ba'labakk was the announcement by the Shi'ite Amal Movement of its determination to continue resisting the Israeli occupation of the south and to seek vengeance for it.

The development of events toward a clash between the various Lebanese factions on the one side and the Israeli military presence on the other is the best situation that can be expected, encouraged, and even supported. It is in the current and future interest of the warring Lebanese factions to direct their hostility, confrontation, and violence against the real enemy occupying southern Lebanon instead of continuing their violence against one another. Since efforts are now being made to complete the national reconciliation agreement and approve the security plan that ensures stability and security and an end to violence and bloodshed among the Lebanese, Israel will try to play a role in this regard. It will not be pleased to see the Lebanese people's factions reaching agreement or reconciliation because such an agreement means that future Lebanese efforts will be directed toward expelling the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon. This was probably the message the Israelis wanted to convey to the parties concerned through their attacks against

Mubarak Appoints Presidential General Secretary

NC101450 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2303 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has issued a republican decree appointing Ra'uf As'ad presidential general secretary. 'Izz ad-Din Mukhtar occupied the post until he reached retirement age.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,338

JN111652 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1612 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA) — During the past 24 hours, the Iraqi Armed Forces killed five enemy Iranian soldiers and destroyed one weapon emplacement. Communique No 1,338 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command here tonight says that Mandali, Ash-Shihabi, Sirawan and their environs came under enemy artillery shelling today. A number of civilian establishments were damaged. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,338 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their operations against the rancorous Khomeyniite forces of aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. In the area east of Basra, one of our forward units engaged an enemy patrol which attempted to advance toward our positions. The patrol members were forced to flee the battleground. One weapon emplacement was destroyed in another place in the same area.

2. In the central sector of the front, our forward units pounded a number of enemy soldiers opposite Iraqi positions killing five.

3. The criminal Khomeyniite clique's artillery today shelled Mandali, Ash-Shihabi, and Sirawan and their environs damaging a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 January 1984.

'Aziz Leaves for Islamic Ministers Meeting

JN111416 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1304 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has left Baghdad for Rabat to participate in the Islamic foreign ministers meeting which will be held there tomorrow, Thursday. The foreign ministers meeting will precede the fourth Islamic summit meetings which will begin in Casablanca on 16 January.

'Ismat Kittani, first Foreign Ministry under secretary, is accompanying Tariq 'Aziz.

PRC Official Comments on Relations With Iraq

JN241258 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0914 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA) — He Ying, member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and former PRC vice minister for foreign affairs, has described his visit to Iraq as successful, saying that this visit will play a positive role in developing relations between the two countries.

In a statement to *ALIF BA'*, the Chinese minister said that China believes that the development and strengthening of relations with Iraq serve the common interests of both countries. These relations, he affirmed, are making progress, especially in the economic, political, and cultural fields.

The Chinese minister renewed his country's desire for a quick end to the Iraqi-Iranian war and the solution of all disputes through dialogue and negotiations. He denounced U.S.- backed Israeli aggressions of usurping Arab territories and preventing the Palestinian Arab people from achieving their objectives.

It will be recalled that He Ying had previously paid a visit to Iraq during which he held talks with the Iraqi National Assembly officials.

Joint Iraqi-Portuguese Statement Reported 11 Jan

JN112103 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] In a joint statement issued today following the visit of Jaime Gama, Portuguese minister of foreign affairs, the Iraqi and the Portuguese sides expressed their satisfaction with the visit and their confidence that it is a remarkable contribution to the development of a fruitful friendship between the two friendly countries.

The Portuguese side expressed its deep concern over the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war, which entered its 4thyear; over the consequent human and material losses to both countries; and over the war's threat to world security and peace. The two sides also expressed their pride in the Arab-Portuguese friendship which has continued for a number of centuries. The two sides also stressed the need for the Palestinian Arab people to regain their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and the return to their homeland.

Regarding Lebanon, the two sides reaffirmed the need for an unconditional withdrawal of all the foreign troops from its territory and for guaranteeing its independence, territorial integrity, and full sovereignty over its territory.

The two sides also expressed their support for the continuing efforts of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement to combat and liberate people from the dominance of colonialism; to seek the establishment of a new international system based on equality, justice, and peace; to contribute to reducing international tension; and to find just and peaceful solutions to international problems in accordance with the UN principles.

The Portuguese side expressed its deep concern over the continuation of the war between Iraq and Iran which entered its 4th year and over the war's threat to world security and peace. The Portuguese side also reaffirmed its support for the UN resolutions aimed at ending the war, including Security Council Resolution 540 which was adopted in October 1983. The Portuguese side also praised Iraq's response to these resolutions.

The two sides expressed their concern over the troubles in several aprts of the world and stressed the need for finding peaceful

solutions to them based on international law and the UN Charter, which supports independence and the peoples' right to determine their destiny freely and without any foreign interference.

Kurdish Leader Interviewed on French Hostages

PM111026 Paris LE MATIN in French 6 Jan 84 p 15

[Interview with Kurdish Democratic Party leader Idris Barzani by Chris Kutschera — date and place not given; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Since 2 December three French technicians — Maurice Moy, Jean-Christophe Lefas, and Robert Laurent — working for the Thomson company in northern Iraq, near Dahuk, have been held hostage by the Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP], one of the two Iraqi Kurdish nationalist organizations. Idris Barzani, one of the KDP's main leaders and one of General Barzani's sons, explained why his "peshmergas" (underground fighters) captured the three French technicians, and on what conditions they will be released.

LE MATIN: Why did you capture the three French technicians?

Idris Barzani: After the Iraqi offensive on Haj 'Umran, the Iraqis captured 8,000 members of the Barzani tribe — all the males over 10 years old, the children, adults, and old people — who were shut up with their families in camps in and around Irbil. They placed them in buses, and took them toward southern Iraq. They told the people who saw them passing that they were Kurds who had fought with the Iranians and had been captured in Haj 'Umran.

LE MATIN: To what extent will the capture of the three French technicians make it possible to settle the fate of your missing people?

Idris Barzani: The French Government is one of those which support the Baghdad regime, which help it remain in power. The French Government has a great deal of influence in Iraq, and it can use that influence to help us.

The Kurds have not committed any crime; they are as innocent as these three French technicians.

We want the French Government to exert pressure on Iraq to force it to release our missing people so that they can return to their villages. We also have 57 Kurds who have been sentenced to death and we want those 57 prisoners to be released; contrary to some reports, we stand by our demands on that point.

LE MATIN: What if the French Government refuses to discuss the matter?

Idris Barzani: No, it is prepared to discuss things, and we hope to have an answer in the next few days.

LE MATIN: But if the French Government refuses to intervene, or if it cannot do anything, what will happen?

Idris Barzani: We are sure that the French Government can do something if it wishes. We know the French Government's role in Iraq, we know a great deal...

LE MATIN: But, I repeat, what if it refuses? What will you do?

Idris Barzani: I do not know, it will be difficult...

The KDP Politburo has not taken a decision, but I am sure that it will be a difficult decision...

The French Government is not helping us at all; quite the reverse, it is supporting groups which are opposed to us, like Qasemlu's KDP (in Iran) and Ja!al Talabani's People's Union of Kordestan (in Iraq) — whose representatives were invited to the PS Congress — together with representatives of the Iraqi Ba'th Party. The French Government is creating prejudice against us and against our people in French opinion. Why?

I hope that the French Government will not refuse to intervene, otherwise things will be difficult...

LE MATIN: Would you accept something else from the French Government, if it cannot do anything for the 8,000 missing people?

Idris Barzani: No, we are only interested in the fate of the 8,000 missing people and the 57 people sentenced to death. I repeat, the French Government is capable of doing everything.

LE MATIN: So the three technicians could remain in Kordestan for a long time?

Idris Barzani: I hope not...

We really do not like doing this kind of thing, and I apologize personally to the French people — but we are forced to do it. Rest assured that we have no other way of finding out what has happened to our missing people.

LE MATIN: Do you have a message for their families?

Idris Barzani: Yes, you can tell them that the three technicians are in good health; they are in a comfortable place; they are able to walk about and read. We respect them, we regard them as...our guests. Their families can send them letters and parcels...

Spokesman Describes Ad-Da'wah Party Philosophy

PM111033 Paris LE MATIN in French 3 Jan 84 pp 18-19

[Kris Kutschera dispatch: "How Iraqi Shi'ites Become 'Iranian' Terrorists"]

[Excerpts] Tehran — Of all the Iraqi Islamic movements, the Ad-Da'wah party is undoubtedly the oldest, the most structured, and the one which is most firmly rooted among the Iraqi Shi'ite population, be it in the south of the country or in the districts of the capital which have a Shi'ite majority: Kazimiyah and Ath-Thawrah.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi al-'Asifi, Ad-Da'wah's "guide" and official spokesman, received us in his house in Qom. It was in his library, which contains some 6,000 books, that this "Sayyid" (descendant of the prophet), this "ulema" (theological scholar), born in An-Najaf 44 years ago and author of several dozen books on Islam and Shi'ism, explained how and why the Ad-Da'wah party (and the other Iraqi Islamic movements) resorts to terrorism.

"Inside Iraq," Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi al-'Asifi stated, "the regime enjoys no support in the nation, and it only remains in power by terrorizing and terrifying the population. To overthrow the rgeim we must first break that barrier of terror to enable the people to go out into the streets in their millions. And that is the purpose of our actions in Iraq."

"Outside the country," the shaykh continued, "there are neighboring countries like Saudi Arabia and Jordan and big powers like the United States and France which support the Iraqi regime. Without their support Saddam Husayn's regime could not survive. It is obvious, therefore, that we must take action against them."

"The Ad-Da'wah party's position is very clear with regard to France in particular," Muhammad Mahdi al-'Asifi added:

"We will strike at its interests.

"At the same time we will openly tell the French nation that its government's policy runs counter to its interests and that we are not against the French people but against their government; byits open and massive support for the Baghdad regime the French Government is participating in the oppression of the Iraqi Muslim nation. We ask the French people to exert pressure on their government to put an end to that hostility."

Muhammad Mahdi al-'Asifi admitted that the Ad-Da'wah party was behind the recent attacks in Turkey, but he said it had nothing to do with the Kuwait attacks. "We made it known (through AFP — *LE MATIN* editor's note) that we had nothing to do with those attacks."

Indeed the Islamic Jihad movement, which claimed responsibility for the Kuwait attacks, is composed of former Ad-Da'wah party members but they are dissidents.

Like the members of other Iraqi Islamic organizations — Amal (Islamic Action organization) and the Mojahedin — they accuse the Ad-Da'wah party of "not being revolutionary enough" and adopting too "reformist" and gradual a strategy. Jihad also accuses the Ad-Da'wah party of having a "military" concept of attacks, of only carrying out "clean" attacks. The Ad-Da'wah dissidents who have grouped within the Islamic Jihad organization are convinced that they can move rapidly and make the great powers give in through violent attacks carried out by a tiny number of suicide commandoes.

King Husayn Tells Citizens Health Is Good
JN120951 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Jordanians were surprised this morning when their king, speaking live on Amman radio, affirmed that he is in good health and that he will be leaving the hospital soon. King Husayn contacted the announcer at Radio Jordan and then informed his citizens about the state of his health. This is the first time the Jordanian monarch has spoken unofficially on the radio in Jordan.

King Husayn was hospitalized on Monday for treatment of a bleeding ulcer.

Cabinet Holds First Session Under 'Ubaydat
JN111356 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Amman — The Cabinet held its first session under Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat this morning. The Cabinet decided to call Parliament into session on Monday as part of its first ordinary session. This decision will be presented to His Majesty King Husayn for his majesty's approval.

The Cabinet also discussed the nature of its work and decided that its bases and principles should be inspired by the royal letter of designation, which will be reflected in the statement the government will prepare soon to explain its working plan. The prime minister also presented the Cabinet's joint plan of action and an expanded discussion was held in this regard.

Al-Qasim, Abu 'Awdah Appointments Announced
JN111823 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] A royal decree has been issued apppointing Marwan Sidqi al-Qasim chief of the Royal Hashemite Court with ministerial rank effective 12 January 1984. Another royal decree appoints 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah minister of the Royal Court with ministerial rank effective 12 January 1984.

Senate Dissolved; New Members Named
JN111850 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The following royal decree has been issued dissolving the Senate:

We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Paragraph 4 of Article 34 of the Constitution, decree the following:

The Senate will be dissolved effective 11 January 1984.

The following royal decree has been issued forming the new Senate:

We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Article 36 of the Constitution, decree that the following dignitaries will be appointed members of the Senate effective 12 January 1984:

1. Ahmad 'Ubaydat.
2. Bahjat at-Talhuni.
3. 'Abd al-Mun'im ar-Rifa'i.
4. Ahmad al-Lawzi.
5. Zayd ar-Rifa'i.
6. Mudar Badran.
7. Anastas Hananiya.
8. 'Abd ar-Rahman Khalifah.
9. Ahmad at-Tarawinah.
10. Hikmat al-Masri.
11. Wasfi Mirza.
12. Walid Salah.
13. Dr Hazim Nusaybah.
14. Dr Subhi Amin 'Amr.
15. Dr Khalil as-Salim.
16. Dhuqan al-Hindawi.
17. Akram Zu'aytir.
18. Habis al-Majali.
19. 'Amir Khammash.
20. 'Ali Hasan 'Awdah.
21. Farid as-Sa'd.
22. Kamil 'Urayqat.
23. Muhammad 'Awdah al-Qur'an.
24. 'Abd al-Majid Shuman.
25. Nawfan as-Su'ud.
26. Muhammad Abu Tayih.
27. Jum'ah Hammad.
28. Nayif al-Khurayshah.
29. Hayil as-Surur.
30. Mutlaq al-Hadid.

A royal decree has been issued appointing Ahmad al-Awzi president of the Senate effective 12 January 1984.

Parliament Called for Ordinary Session 16 Jan
JN111903 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The following royal decree was issued today reconvening the dissolved House of Representatives:

We, King Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with the Council of Ministers decision No 1, dated 11 January 1984, and our approval of it, and taking cognizance of Paragraph 5 of Article 73 of the Constitution, decree the following:

The dissolved House of Representatives will be recalled to convene for an ordinary session effective Monday, 16 January 1984.

The following royal decree was issued today calling Parliament to convene for an ordinary session:

We, King Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with the Council of Ministers decision No 1, dated 11 January 1984, and our approval of it, and taking cognizance of Paragraph 1 of Article 78 of the Constitution and Paragraph 5 of Article 73 of the Constitution, decree the following:

The Parliament will be called to convene for an ordinary session on Monday, 16 January 1984.

Crown Prince To Head Delegation in Morocco

JN120904 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* has learned that His Highness Crown Prince Hasan will head Jordan's delegation to the fourth Islamic conference which will begin in Rabat [as published] on 16 January.

Jordan will also participate in meetings of the Islamic foreign ministers which will begin in Rabat today to prepare for the fourth summit. Nabih an-Nimir, ambassador to Tunisia and Jordan's permanent representative to the Arab League, will represent Jordan at the Islamic foreign ministers meetings.

It has been learned that Jordan's delegation to the Islamic summit conference will present working papers on preparation of a working strategy to confront the aggressive Israeli measures aimed at changing the features of the occupied territory and at obliterating its Arab identity.

It has also been learned that the Jordanian delegation will try to crystallize a stand aimed at achieving a solution to the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Fatah's Al-Wazir To Arrive 15 January

JN120932 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Jan 84 p 24

[Text] Amman — *AD-DUSTUR* — Informed Palestinian sources in Amman Have said that Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, will arrive in Amman on Sunday.

The sources added that Al-Wazir will head the Palestinian side to meetings of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee which will begin on Monday.

Cabinet Discusses Security Plan 11 Jan

NC111518 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Joe Sa'adah dispatch from the Presidential Palace — live]

[Excerpts] The weekly Cabinet meeting concluded at 1430 today. It was followed by a statement from Information Minister Roger Shaykhani who said the Cabinet had summoned the Army intelligence chief and his assistant to brief them on the developments in the security plan and the obstacles facing the plan after all the parties had unanimously given consent to it.

It became clear that a delay in implementing the security plan could lead to grave perils, particularly in the south, where the Lebanese Army's responsibility would necessitate quick moves in accordance with the plan to cope with any sudden Israeli moves.

Foreign Minister Elie Salim briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of his talks in Saudi Arabia.

The Cabinet also discussed the daily incidents in Sidon and the south, the arbitrary measures, and the daily harassment which the citizens suffer, and the general political scope of those matters. The Cabinet decided to continue the international contacts to put an end to the arbitrary measures.

KUNA: Junblatt to Visit USSR 12 January

LD112004 Kuwait KUNA in English 1926 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus, Jan 11 (KUNA) — Leader of the Lebanese opposition Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) Walid Junblatt flies Thursday to Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Union's Communist Party Central Committee, a PSP source said Wednesday. The Druze leader will discuss with Soviet officials the Lebanese crisis, including military and political developments, as well as relations between the Soviet Communist Party and the PSP, the source said but would not elaborate.

Leaves 12 Jan

JN121047 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt, Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader, left Damascus today on a visit of several days to Moscow. Muhsin Dallul, PSP deputy leader, is accompanying Junblatt.

Karami, Franjiyah Warn of 17 May Agreement

JN111954 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Rashid Karami, former Lebanese prime minister, has called for strengthening relations with Syria to overcome the Lebanese people's tribulations. He affirmed that Lebanon will not be free and independent except by foiling the contract of submission the Lebanese regime signed with the Israeli enemy.

Sulayman Franjiyah, former Lebanese president, said there are political manuevers presently taking place aimed at peddling the 17 May agreement, which the Arabs and Geneva National Lebanese Reconciliation conference rejects.

Qulaylat, Cuban Envoy Discuss Developments

NC120728 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat [leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun] received Raul Ramos, Cuban charge d'affaires in Lebanon at the movement's headquarters. They discussed the political developments in Lebanon and appraised the situation in the south, particularly the national resistance forces' activity there, and noted the U.S. imperialist stance regarding the current events.

AMAL Denies Allegations Against Foreign Elements

NC120751 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The AMAL movement yesterday stressed that allegations by well-known quarters to convince the people that the foreign elements in Beirut's southern suburb are the source of evil leads us to believe that their intentions toward the suburb are still malicious. Such allegations, like past similar ones, are preparatory to striking our kinfolk in the suburb.

A statement issued by Amal to this effect concluded by saying that everyone must know that we are lying in wait.

JAPAN TIMES Cited on Mideast Red Army Bases

NC120638 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0557 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] It was reported in Tokyo today that the Japanese Red Army, an underground extreme leftist division [Firqah], has set up bases in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' plain, the PDRY, and Cyprus.

The *JAPAN TIMES*, a leading Japanese newspaper — citing Japanese security sources emphasizes that the Red Army members who had lost and later left their strong position in Lebanon during the 1982 Israeli operations, have recently returned to that position. Twenty Red Army members have set up a position in the Al-Biqa' plain, where they hold military training and carry out propaganda activities in conjunction with the Palestinian Popular Front [as heard]. Furthermore, the Japanese Red Army has set up a base in Nicosia and another in Aden.

Iranians, Al-Musawi Vacate Positions in Ba'labakk

NC111633 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Iranians and the Al-Musawi Group today vacated their armed positions inside Ba'labakk's populated quarters following the escalation of popular wrath against them. They set up fortifi-

cations and dug trenches in the neighboring [word indistinct] as a precaution against any future air raids.

Rafsanjani: Iran Views MNF Casualties Positively

NC111625 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Speaker of the so-called Islamic Iranian Parliament said in an interview with the Islamic paper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* that Iran views the death of 1 American soldier in Lebanon as better than the killing of 200 Phalangists. Hashim Rafsanjani further said: If the Muslim people of Lebanon fire one shot and hit a French soldier, then this is better for us than throwing a hydrogen bomb by any of the so-called Islamic states.

More on Israeli Practices, Situation in South

Patrols Continue Sidon 'Terrorism'

NC120653 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The south is still experiencing Zionist terrorism, particularly in Sidon where enemy patrols continue to terrorize the citizens by opening machinegun fire in the main streets paralyzing economic activity.

It was reported this morning that enemy motorized and foot patrols are being deployed in the main streets and coastal road from the Al-Awwali River Bridge to Sayniq Bridge south of Sidon. An Israeli patrol opened machinegun fire on the house of Da'ud Da'ud, a member of the Amal Movement, in Ad-Duwayr. There were no casualties.

In western Al-Biqa', the occupation forces arrested Nasib Badr ad-Din, Fu'ad Abu Salih, and 'Imad Zuq of Hasbayya. The occupation forces have paved a road connecting 'Ayha with the Lebanese-Syrian border.

Israeli Tank Column Attacked

NC120602 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] In the south, an explosive charge went off at 0715 today on Tallat Mar Ilyas Road in Sidon. The charge was directed against an Israeli tank column, and resulted in putting one of the tanks in the column out of commission.

Two Israelis Wounded 12 Jan

NC121021 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 JAN 84

[Text] In the south an Israeli armored personnel carrier was hit and two soldiers wounded this morning when an explosive device went off in Mar Ilyas east of Sidon.

Al-Awwali Crossings Closed

NC121322 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] It was reported a short while ago that at 1305 today a big explosion took place in Sidon near Shahrazad Cinema. No details are available. Ambulances of the Lebanese Red Cross were seen rushing to the scene. Meanwhile, the Israeli forces cut the Riyad as-Sulh Road and began searching and checking identity cards. As a result, shops closed down.

At 1200 today, the Israelis closed the crossing points at the Al-Awwali Bridge. No vehicles or pedestrians — after a wait of several hours — were allowed to cross. This morning, traffic was permitted to cross in both directions for pedestrians and vehicles.

Information Agreement Signed With France

NC111355 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Lebanon and France have agreed in principle on an information cooperation program which will benefit the Lebanese radio and National Information Agency. This occurred at a working meeting today between Information Minister Roger Shaykhani and French Ambassador Ferdinand Wibaux. The meeting was attended by Dr Manaf Mansur, director general of the Information Ministry; Rafiq Shalalah, director of the National Information Agency; the French economic attache; and the two cultural attaches at the embassy.

After the meeting, Wibaux said the talks focused on developing and strengthening radio. He said: We agreed to eliminate all obstacles and implement the programs previously prepared. France can provide technical and administrative assistance, as well as training correspondents and commentators.

Minister Shaykhani said:

[Begin recording Shaykhani]] Today we sought to strengthen relations between Lebanon and France in the information field. This includes administrative and linguistic aspects as well as French technical assistance. An agreement was reached in principle between us, with the approval of the Development and Reconstruction Council, on the administrative and technological aspects. We arrived at positive results which I believe will soon be applied to Lebanese radio and the National Iinformation Agency.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Minister, has there been talk on another shortwave frequency?

[Shaykhani] Not one but two shortwave frequencies, God willing. We can greatly expand if we have the adequate funds. I believe we can implement our desire in this field and that Lebanese radio will be heard throughout Lebanon. Every citizen should be a good citizen and purely Lebanese. We can then communicate the state's voice to every Lebanese citizen wherever he may be. [end recording]

Egyptian Official Escapes Assasination Attempt
NC121029 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] At 1036 today, Hamdi as-Sayyid Lawza, affairs coordinator of the Egyptian interests section at the French Embassy in Beirut, was subjected to an assassination attempt near Cinema Versailles in Al-Hamra'. Unidentified persons fired on Lawza, but missed.

Explosion Near French Embassy; No Casualties
NC111731 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] This evening, an explosive charge went off 50 meters from the French Embassy building on Clemenceau Street resulting in only material damage.

UK Positions Shelled During Junblattist-Army Clash
NC121236 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1157 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Junblattist attacks began this morning with the shelling of Army positions in ('Ayn as-Sayyidah) where a soldier was martyred, and in 'Ayn Ksur, where an Army armored personnel carrier was hit. The clashes spread, becoming fiercer, and involved the coastal line axes and College of Science and Ash-Shuwayfat axes. Mortars fell on British positions in the College of Science perimeter, but no casualties were reported.

Jordan's Moves 'More Threatening' Than Camp David

JN111821 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The Syrian newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* today launched a fierce attack against the new Jordanian moves. The paper said that Syria will confront the Jordanian policy which not only threatens the Palestinians but also harms Syria's national security. *ATH-THAWRAH* added that the new Jordanian approach will transform Jordan into an Israeli protectorate and a stage for anti-Syrian plots. The Syrian paper asserted that Damascus will not allow the appearance of a new As-Sadat on Syria's southern borders, and will therefore take the appropriate measures to prevent this from happening.

The paper considered King Husayn's policy to be a violation of the Arab League's (?Charter) and the Arab summit resolutions. The paper also said that this policy aims at canceling the PLO's role because it calls for opening negotiations with Israel on the basis of the Reagan plan.

Concluding its comment, the paper said that the new Jordanian position is more threatening to the Arab world than the Camp David agreements.

Al-Asad, Khaddam Receive Moroccan Minister

JN111256 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Abdelouahid Belkeziz, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs [title as heard] and King Hassan II's personal envoy. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Belkeziz conveyed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from King Hassan II. The message deals with the situation and developments in the region and matters related to the coming Islamic summit. The president asked him to convey a reply message to King Hassan II. The talks dealt with the situation in the region.

At 1030 today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister received Dr Belkeziz. The talks dealt with the current Arab situation.

The Moroccan minister arrived in Damascus last night.

Khaddam To Head Syrian Delegation to Islamic Summit

JN111248 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1212 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Louis Faris recorded dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] This morning, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Dr Abdelouahid Belkeziz, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs, who arrived here last night. Syria has agreed to participate in the Islamic summit, which will begin on Saturday in Casablanca, Morocco. 'Isam an-Na'ib, assistant foreign minister, left for Casablanca yesterday to participate in the preparatory meetings which are being held on the level of the Islamic foreign ministers. It has also been learned that in accordance with Syria's request the subject of the U.S. aggressions in Lebanon has been included in the summit's agenda.

The Syrian delegation to the summit will be headed by Khaddam, who is scheduled to leave for Casablanca Saturday morning. Tomorrow, Thursday, U.S. presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld is scheduled to visit Damascus for the third time for talks with Minister Khaddam on the situation in the region and Lebanon and bilateral relations.

British Foreign Secretary Arrives 11 Jan

Talks Begin

JN112004 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — At 2000 today, the first round of talks began between 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs. On the Syrian Side, Sulayman Haddad, director of the West Europe Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Lutfallah Haydar, Syrian ambassador in London, attended the meeting. On the British side, the meeting was attended by Howe's delegation. During the meeting, the talks dealt with the current situation in the region and bilateral relations.

The British foreign secretary and his delegation arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at Damascus airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the director of protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the British ambassador in Damascus; and the embassy staff.

12 Jan Talks

JN121026 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a second round of talks this morning with Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs. Both sides discussed the current international and regional situation.

Libya's Jallud Continues Meetings in Damascus

Meets With Lebanon's Junblatt

LD111430 Tripoli JANA in English 0849 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus, Rabi Thani 7, Jan 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Staff Major 'Abd As-Salam Jallud yesterday met in Damascus with Walid Junblatt, head of the Lebanese progressive Socialist Party and one of the leading figures in the Lebanon Salvation Front.

Receives Foreign Minister

LD111431 Tripoli JANA in English 0853 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus, Rabi Thani 7, Jan 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — At his residence here yesterday, Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud met with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Syria.

Daily Views Recent 'Arafat, Jordanian Moves

JN120803 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Jan84

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "With the Events" column, *AL-BA'TH* says: The Jordanian regime which has always participated in the liquidation of the Palestine cause has made changes through the new Jordanian Government after receiving 'Arafat's agreement to a formula for joint action in order to enter the Camp David negotiations. These negotiations will be the last stage in the conspiracy against the Palestine cause.

It has become obvious that the events in Tripoli were not a coincidence; they were planned in the Jordanian royal palace. Through these events, 'Arafat wanted to create a split in the ranks of the Palestinian revolution, and to ride on bandwagon of treason.

'Arafat's knowledge of what took place in Jordan is an official condemnation and a dangerous sign which discloses the conspiratorial intentions of those deviant Palestinian leaders in colloaboration with the Jordanian regime. Anyone who meets with Mubarak, plans with King Husayn, and agrees to plans aimed at liquidating the Palestinian people — the plans made apparent by the recent measures in Jordan — is rejected by the Palestinian people who have become fully aware of the game.

Shamir Interviewed on Economy, Lebanese Situation

TA112100 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir and political correspondent Yoram Ronen on the Moqed program, in Shamir's office — live]

[Text][Ahime'ir] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Next week will mark 100 days that Yitzhaq Shamir has been in office as prime minister. This evening, in an interview broadcast from his office in Jerusalem, we will not draw any interim conclusions, but will question Mr Shamir on two areas that are very much in the public eye these days: the economic situation, of course, and the continued military presence in Lebanon. With me here is our political correspondent Yoram Ronen. Mr Prime Minister, good evening to you.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Ahime'ir] I will begin, Mr Prime Minister, with the voting that took place this evening in the Zionist General Council, against the appointment of Minister Ari'el Sharon to the post of head of the immigration department. What is your reaction to the vote?

[Shamir] It goes without saying that I am very sorry about the result. I think this is a wrong that has been done to the man, a wrong to immigration, and a loss to the Zionist movement. An extraordinary opportunity of lending momentum to immigration, of strengthening the Zionist movement, has been lost.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, would you interpret the outcome of this vote as a severe blow to your own prestige, since you brought your full weight to bear in favor of Ari'el Sharon's appointment, and you failed?

[Shamir] This is not a matter of prestige. From the moment that Arik Sharon's candidacy appeared, and he agreed to submit his candidacy, I thought that it was my duty to support this candidacy, without any calculation as to whether he would succeed or not. If I had not supported his candidacy, I would have blamed myself for not having done everything possible for him to be chosen.

[Ronen] Before the vote, Ari'el Sharon said that this was in effect your problem — to see that his appointment in the Zionist General Council was passed.

[Shamir] I do not know whether that is what he said, but in any case I considered it my duty to support his candidacy, and acted accordingly.

[Ahime'ir] My colleague Ronen asked whether this is a blow to your prestige. Do you not think that this is a blow to your prestige, since the candidate with whom you identified failed?

[Shamir] Mr dear sir, I am not worried about my prestige. I fulfill my obligations; I act according to the dictates of my conscience; I am firmly convinced that I had to support him. Those who failed to support Arik Sharon for this job — they are the ones who failed.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, in your speech to the Zionist General Council you said that if Mr Sharon were not elected, then the whole world would believe that Israel was responsible for the massacre in Sabra and Shatila. Those are statements you made. Can you confirm this evening that this is what the world will think? And do you not, in retrospect, regret having linked the vote on this matter to the matter of Sabra and Shatila?

[Shamir] I did not say that. You are simply not accurate. What I said was that the ruling out of Ari'el Sharon's candidacy for any national or public position would be deemed an admission of responsibility for Sabra and Shatila. I say today, this evening, that his candidacy has not been disqualified. The fact is that a sizable Zionist camp, the Likud, submitted his candidacy. His not having been elected, that is an accident on the strange road of Zionist democracy. But his candidacy was not disqualified. Now that he has been a candidate for an important position, he will continue to be a candidate for important positions.

[Ahime'ir] In that case, why did his candidacy fail? Not because of Sabra and Shatila, ultimately?

[Shamir] I think not. In any case, it is not me you should be asking. You should ask the people who voted against him.

[Ronen] But Mr Shamir, Arik Sharon holds a public position. He is a minister in the Israeli Cabinet. You greatly recommended his qualifications, as a man capable of acting in nonroutine, unconventional ways; a man capable of uprooting mountains. And in light of his failure in the Zionist General Council, will you not entrust him now with an active position, appropriate to his qualifications, in the government?

[Shamir] There is no connection between the two. The manning of positions in the government is a political step, linked to all sorts of possibilities, considerations, and calculations — coalition and others — but I am certain that the day will come when Ari'el Sharon will carry out important operational assignments.

[Ahime'ir] In the government?

[Shamir] In the government as well.

[Ahime'ir] Perhaps you will appoint him, or recommend him for the position of chairman of the Herut movement secretariat now — they are about to appoint a new secretary general?

[Shamir] I do not deal with appointments. It is not I who appoint people to the position of chairman of the Herut movement secretariat. There are institutions for that; they will decide; they will make their choice.

[Ronen] What is your opinion of the suggestion that was made tonight — that Sharon be made minister for affairs of the Jewish people, or minister for immigration affairs?

[Shamir] I heard that. If someone proposes this seriously then we will consider it and decide.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Shamir, I listened to your address in the Zionist General Council, and you really dwelt on, lauded, and com-

plimented Mr Sharon's qualities. And now that he has failed in a democratic vote to obtain a new appointment, you say: We will consider. You do not sound especially enthusiastic.

[Shamir] I did not say I was enthusiastic or unenthusiastic. We will have to see whether in effect, that proposed position is such that it should be manned within the Israeli Government. So far there has not been such a position in any government. We will also have to check with Ari'el Sharon whether he is inclined to this position. We will also have to consult with colleagues in the coalition, in the party.

[Ronen] But you do realize that Arik Sharon feels discriminated against, not utilized in the Cabinet?

[Shamir] I imagine that it it uncomfortable for a man who was used to action, extraordinary action, to be inactive. But that happens in political life, you know.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, I should like to move to another subject. Following the decisions of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs, at its meeting which ended this morning, do you think that the threat to the unity of the coalition has been lifted, in the wake of the decisions reached this morning?

[Shamir] I believe that the coalition is united in its support of the government. Of course, in a coalition such as ours there can be various changes or upheavals. That is usual and normal, and has always been so in Israel's parliamentary life. But there can be no doubt that the decision of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs of last night has strengthened the government. Of that I have no doubt.

[Ronen] One of the upheavals you refer to is, perhaps, the threat made by TAMI, which has not yet been retracted, to quit the government? TAMI demands, and will presumably demand in Sunday's Cabinet session, that a comprehensive social welfare program be approved; and if this is not done then, its leaders said, TAMI will quit the government. Will you, Mr Prime Minister, be prepared to accede to TAMI's demands in order to prevent the coalition from dissolving?

[Shamir] That is not what I know of TAMI's coming moves. In any case, TAMI is a partner in the coalition, and we are maintaining constant contacts, to discuss and talk. We will listen to their contentions, their wishes, and try to persuade them even if we cannot accede to their wishes. I am confident that we can reach an understanding, and all this within the framework of the economic policy we have decided on.

[Ronen] One imminent test regarding TAMI will take place this Monday, when MK's Berman and Zeigerman, together with members of the Shinuy faction, submit a proposal in the Knesset for freezing the settlements. It is said that TAMI will support this proposal. Will you consider that a threat to the unity of the government?

[Shamir] I do not think that this will threaten the unity of the government, but I am surprised at the colleagues who are submitting this proposal now. It has no economic significance. It has only political significance, and I do not think anyone is interested in weakening the political status of the Israeli Government. It will surprise me if anyone supports this proposal, but I do not consider it a threat to the existence of the government.

[Ronen] In other words, if this proposal obtains a majority in the Knesset, you will not consider it a reason to disband the coalition.

[Shamir] This is a motion to the agenda. What does the Knesset decide on a motion to the agenda? It decides whether to discuss it or not discuss it, or to pass it on to committee. This is not a decision or resolution that could cause an upheaval or even topple the government.

[Ronen] Still, it is a resolution calling for a freeze on settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

[Shamir] But it is not binding on the government to freeze settlements, and I tell you already that we will not freeze them.

[Ahime'ir] Not even in the framework of the present budget cutbacks?

[Shamir] Oh, there will be cutbacks, in every sphere of the government's activities.

[Ahime'ir] Also in the sphere of settlements?

[Shamir] In all spheres. There will be cutbacks in all spheres, and the settlements are no exception. But, there can be no talk in this government of a freeze. A freeze would be a political measure, not an economic one.

[Ahime'ir] Meaning that there will be cutbacks in the settlements in light of cuts in the budget? How do you envisage this? Could you explain what you mean exactly?

[Shamir] I will tell you. There will be budget cuts. To what extent it will be possible not to cut back on settlements despite the budget cuts, the ways and means for that will have to be sought by all those who handle settlement affairs, because none of us is anxious to cut back on settlements. We will have to grapple with this problem, just as cutbacks in many other spheres are scarcely to our liking. We are not anxious to cut back on services to the public, we are not anxious to cut back on security. We are anxious that in fact we must cut back on security expenditures, and that will be the same problem.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, earlier we spoke of the narrow base on which your Cabinet stands. I would like to ask you a personal question, pertaining to your own functioning. To what extent can you impose your will, as prime minister, on the Cabinet ministers, when the basis, the foundation of the government is such a narrow one? Can you function as prime minister, as the first among equals, but also as the man who gives orders to his ministers?

[Shamir] That is a question which should not perhaps be put to me directly. This question concerns our entire system, our whole parliamentary, democratic, government system.

[Ahime'ir] But in light of the situation that has evolved?

[Shamir] Naturally there are problems. Naturally there are difficulties; but I think that on the whole the government functions as one man, united, consolidated; and that was proved last night, in a very serious action, very difficult, very complex — a drastic, unprecedented cutback in government expenditure. The fact is that all the ministers, unanimously, were resolved on this step. That is not something to be taken lightly.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, perhaps one more question on settlements. Why should not the money, the hundreds of millions of dollars, or billions of shekels which are meant for the settlements, why should this not be transferred to the welfare budgets, in order to ease the burden of the more deprived sectors of the people?

[Shamir] Look, this country has various spheres of activity. It must operate in all of them. The welfare services are important, but the settlement actions are also important. We are cutting back because of the economic difficulties. We are cutting back our expenditure in all spheres. Moreover, all those who keep sniping at us with regard to the settlements in Judaea and Samaria, these people are not demanding a halt to settlements in other parts of Eretz Yisra'el — in the Jordan Valley, for instance. I do not condemn them for it. But it only proves that the problem is not economic but political, and this is the policy of the government. We mean to put up settlements in those areas as well, in Judaea and Samaria as well, and we will maintain this.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, suppose TAMI quits the government; will you remain at the head of a coalition of 61 Knesset members, or would you prefer to call early elections?

[Shamir] Look, I do not think TAMI will quit, so why discuss it?

[Ahime'ir] Do you say that because you know it to be so, sir?

[Shamir] I am convinced of it.

[Ronen] So you consider this a hypothetical question?

[Shamir] Of course it is. After all, the same question can be asked about all the coalition factions.

[Ronen] Yes, but TAMI is threatening, threatening to leave.

[Shamir] I do not think that TAMI means to leave. If I am proved wrong, we will have to see what needs to be done.

[Ronen] MK Abu-Hatzera yesterday spoke somewhat differently.

[Shamir] Yes, we heard another TAMI member this morning speaking differently again. As I said before, we are in constant contact, daily contact, with TAMI members, and I believe that this dialogue, this cooperation, will continue.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, I would like to go back to the budget cuts and their implications for the individuals. There is no doubt that these cuts, as you pointed out yourself, will have an impact on the individual and particularly on salaried people. For example, do you have an answer for a postman who works for the Communications Ministry and makes from 20,000 to 30,000 shekels a month — and the latter figure is probably exaggerated. Can he support a family with this salary at a time when his wages are constantly being eroded? What is your answer to him? How is he supposed to support a family?

[Shamir] Look, the problem of low wages of civil servants in the low grades has been afflicting Israel from the beginning.

[Ahime'ir] You are entrusted with the task of solving this problem at present.

[Shamir] At present, we have a special problem with inflation which adversely affects wages and the individual's purchasing power. Therefore, we are sensitive and understand the distress of that man, and we are looking for ways to ease this distress.

I for one know that the cost of living increment that civil servants and the workers at large will receive at the beginning of February, that is within a short period of time, will give full compensation for everything people have lost in the last few months, and we will proceed this way in future. We do not want to lower the wages of the low and weaker strata.

[Ahime'ir] Finance Minister Kohen-Orgad has said he wants to lower the standard of living of all of us.

[Shamir] He was talking about the public at large. Of course, the general level of consumption will drop because it must. We have no other choice. Look, after quite a few prosperous and, I would say, fat years, it is no tragedy if we have a leaner year, if we somewhat lower the level of consumption and go back 2 years. Did we not manage in 1981? Were we living badly then? Let us go back to the level of 1981 for 1 year out of hope that during this year, and with the help of the measures we will take, we will once again get on the path of economic growth, progress, and vital changes in the structure of the economy. All the actions we are taking at present, the cut in government expenditures, constitutes the first step to curb inflation.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, yesterday I watched the demonstration by the Rogozin factory workers from Ashdod, when the latter welcomed theLabor Party's Shim'on Peres with hugs and kisses. Are you not worried about ferment in Ashdod and other development towns where the largest potential group of Likud voters live, in light of the fact that they are beginning to despair of the Likud and its economic policy which has been harming them?

[Shamir] Likud people in the development towns know that we are with them now and in future. They know that we are concerned about them, that we have taken care of them more than any other political group in Israel, and that we will continue to do this in future. This is a difficult interim period; we will overcome it, and they must help us. Those staging sanctions and demonstrations are not helping themselves, because even if they get a couple of shekels in the wake of these sanctions, these shekels will lose their value if they are not used within our capabilities.

[Ronen] Those staging sanctions and demonstrations are to a great extent supporters of the Likud.

[Shamir] That may be, but they will go back on their actions. We will calm them and convince them that we are with them. They will realize this in the near future.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, are you aware of the feelings of most salaried people and many people in the development towns where there is ferment and protest?

[Shamir] Let me tell you: We have a special problem in Israel which makes us different from every other country and nation. We have a special attitude to the issue of unemployment. It is generally accepted in the world that when one wants to fight inflation the price must be unemployment; when one wants to improve the balance of payments, the price must be unemployment. The situation is different in Israel. We have decided that we will not tolerate unemployment in Eretz Yisra'el because we want to be a country of aliyah, and we want to prevent emigration. Therefore, we will do everything we can to prevent unemployment. Even if pockets of unemployment are created here and there — we will cope with this and solve this problem. However, there will be no unemployment.

There is another point: You have probably heard that in many places in Israel, in the industry and tourism services, there is a demand for jobs. So it is difficult to move from one job to another. This requires retraning and certain organizational procedures. We will overcome this and will calm the economy, because there is no other way.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, are you not concerned about the polls showing that the gap is increasing between the popularity of the Alignment and that of the Likud in terms of the number of seats both parties would receive were elections held now?

[Shamir] To tell you that I like seeing those polls — that would not be true. However, we have seen many polls. We also saw polls several months before the last election, and the results of the election were totally different. Therefore, the best poll is the election. When the time comes for elections we will compete, struggle, and see.

[Ahime'ir] I assume that you would not be willing to go to elections to widen the base of your government.

[Shamir] I am ready to go to elections as scheduled.

[Ahime'ir] But not now?

[Shamir] I set up a government 3 months ago. After all, one does not establish a government in order to go to elections. There is also the national and factional question. Today, at a time of serious economic struggle over improving the balance of payments, over overcoming a period of difficulties and moving into a period of resumed economic growth — would it be good to hold elections at such a time and totally paralyze the efforts for a remedy? Is this the best thing we can do? If this is imposed on you by democratic life, you do it because there is no other choice. However, I would not recommend anybody doing this willingly. In any case, one must abstain from this these days.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, with your permission I would like to go to another issue: The issue of Lebanon and the continued IDF presence there. Last Sunday the Cabinet decided — or actually reiterated its decision — that the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon is definitely conditional on a parallel withdrawal of the Syrian troops. In contrast with the Cabinet decision, the chief of staff stated last Friday in an interview with Yo'el Marcus in *HA'ARETZ — and I quote — that the remaining Syrian* presence in Lebanon is not detrimental to us militarily. How do you settle this contradiction?

[Shamir] I would not say that there is a contradiction. First of all, I would like to be precise: The Cabinet did not decide again that our withdrawal from Lebanon is conditional on this or that withdrawal. We just reiterated that we support and stand behind the agreement we signed with Lebanon on 17 May 1983. One of the conditions specified in this agreement is the departure of all foreign forces from Lebanon including Syria and the PLO terrorists.

[Ronen] Simultaneously?

[Shamir] Yes. Nothing has happened to date that requires us to change our position, which is a political one. It is wrong and somewhat misleading to think that if Israel just said that the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon is not conditional on the Syrians' departure, then immediately, as if by a magic wand, we would be able to leave Lebanon, the security arrangements would be born by themselves, and everything would be solved peacefully. This is not true, gentlemen. Israel is working to create the conditions which will enable us to pull our army out of Lebanon, to create the security arrangements which will enable us to pull our army out of Lebanon, to create the security arrangements which will guarantee the main objective of the operation in Lebanon: Peace for the Galilee. We insist and are working on this. Syuria is one of the elements in this parallelogram of forces in Lebanon. We are working in coordination with the United States and the Lebanese Government, and they also have the same position. I do not see any reason at present why we should change our position. If we decide either way, this will not accelerate the IDF's departure from Lebanon. When security arrangements are found that will guarantee peace for the Galilee, then we will proceed.

[Ronen] In addition to the interview with the chief of staff quoted by Ya'aqov, MK Shulamit Aloni quoted a secret document of the IDF's Planning Branch that states that the Syrian presence is a fact, and that we must get out of Lebanon and come to terms with the Syrian presence there. Has the political level rejected this recommendation of the IDF?

[Shamir] Look, many papers are written by the General Staff. Apparently, MK Aloni got hold of one of these paper. Not every paper is submitted to the Cabinet for a decision, or even to the General Staff for a decision or recommendation. There are many papers, and I am sorry that this particular one was read from the Knesset podium. Generally, these publications tend to — or at least this is the consequence — weaken our position in the confrontation in Lebanon between us and the extreme anti-Israeli Syrian position. To date, we have not discerned any signs of moderation on the part of Syria, any sign which would compel us to change our position, nothing of that sort.

[Ronen] Was this paper discussed in any forum?

[Shamir] This paper in particular? As I said, there are many papers from the General Staff. I do not recall that such a paper or some other paper with a similar content was ever submitted to the political elements for their decision. I am also not sure that it was submitted to the General Staff for its recommendation.

[Ronen] I am not mistaken; it was written on the eve of your trip and that of the defense minister to the United States.

[Shamir] I do not know whether you or I are mistaken. Anyway, I did not see this paper before I left for the United States.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, I would like to go back to the chief of staff's resolute — that is how it sounds — position. He said that the Syrian presence remaining in Lebanon is not detrimental to us militarily. As a statesman, do you subscribe to his assessment?

[Shamir] I have not talked to him.

[Ahime'ir] That is what he said.

[Shamir] I am sure that there are no differences of opinion whatsoever between myself and the chief of staff, and that if I sat with him and clarified this position — what our position should be regarding the Syrian presence and its conditions, and the terms for our withdrawal — I am convinced that there would be a definite affinity of views between us. It is difficult to argue based on some occasional utterance without conducting a thorough clarification.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, there may also be differences of opinion within the Cabinet proper, because a personality that opted to hide behind the name "senior security source" told us that ultimately Israel would not make its withdrawal from Lebanon conditional on that of the Syrian troops.

[Shamir] No high-level security personality whatsoever has said such things, and there are no differences of opinion between myself and that high-level personality.

[Ahime'ir] I can only attest to the fact that I heard these words from that high-level personality, whom we cannot identify. Still, these remarks were made. Anyway, Mr Prime Minister, if the IDF does not effect an immediate withdrawal from Lebanon, do you foresee an IDF withdrawal to a new deployment line, say to the area of the Az-Zahrani River?

[Shamir] Everything is possible. After all, I think I also stated in the last Moqed program that we are in the process of withdrawing and leaving Lebanon, and that we are all the time looking for and planning ways to get out of Lebanon — whether an absolute one-time withdrawal from the whole of Lebanon, or a phased withdrawal. Therefore, anything that will lead to the IDF's departure from Lebanon on the condition that security arrangements are fulfilled — anything of this sort is possible.

[Ronen] That is to say that there is a possibility for a withdrawal to the Az-Zahrani River in the foreseeable future?

[Shamir] There is such a possibility, although I am not saying that it will be fulfilled precisely in this fashion and under those terms. However, we are marching in that direction.

[Ahime'ir] Regarding southern Lebanon, closer to our border, the Cabinet argues that the PLO's military infrastructure was destroyed in the Lebanese war. Still, does the Shi'ite population in southern Lebanon not pose a lesser threat and danger now than that of the PLO in that area in the past?

[Shamir] I would not say that the Shi'ite population poses a danger.

[Ahime'ir] Rather from within the Shi'ite population?

[Shamir] There are terrorist groups that operate with the inspiration of various factions of the PLO or, more recently, under the influence of extreme Iranian elements whose influence is generally widening over many of the Middle East countries. However, we believe these groups can be dealt with by any Lebanese element that we entrust with the mission of keeping security after our departure.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, would you not say that a more dangerous infrastructure of Shi'ites operating with Khomeyni's inspiration is now substituting for the PLO's infrastructure? They are increasingly gathering strength.

[Shamir] This is most exaggerated. After all, the purpose of those terrorist groups is to harass us, but they do not have the same political goal the PLO had. They do not have the same infrastructure or the same political framework encompassing all Arab states and having branches in many places in the world. There is no comparison.

[Ahime'ir] You mentioned the last Moqed program and this reminded me of another issue. In that program you stressed that the IDF would withdraw from Lebanon in the very near future, or to be more precise, that we would strive toward this. Do you have now, in this Moqed program, an estimate of when the IDF will withdraw from Lebanon?

[Shamir] I have no timetable, I do not think I could make such an estimate. And even if I had such an estimate I would not be allowed to divulge it. However, I do say that it will be in the near future.

[Ronen] This year?

[Shamir] I cannot say. I would like it to be in the immediate future. This is the objective and our activity is aimed toward this. However, the peace of the Galilee....

[Ahime'ir] Another question on security matters; the security in Judaea and Samaria: Mr Prime Minister, can you confirm or deny the existence of a Jewish underground which operates in the territories and which perhaps performs acts of revenge?

[Shamir] I cannot say anything definite as to the existence or nonexistence of such an underground....

[Ahime'ir — interrupting] Is this not known to the authorities?

[Shamir] Not yet, so far this has not been proven. We are acting — the suitable services are trying to discover the perpetrators of these crimes in order to prevent their recurrence. I hope that in time they will overcome this pestilence.

[Ahime'ir] Is there any progress in the prolonged investigation of the attempt to murder the Arab mayors in Judaea and Samaria?

[Shamir] I cannot comment on the proceedings or the results of an investigation which is being handled by the security services.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, Ya'aqov has already mentioned that next week will mark 100 days of your tenure in office. When you entered office you said that you wanted 3 months in order to take stock of the situation in the government. Now that the 3 months are over, is David Levi, for instance, a candidate for the post of foreign minister?

[Shamir] I said that I would not make any changes before 3 months were up. Perhaps in the future it will be necessary to make some changes. Of course, the deputy prime minister is a candidate, if that is what he wants.

[Ronen] It is, he said so himself.

[Shamir] There is an understanding between us that when the time for change comes, we will consider this issue together and will decide together.

[Ronen] Do you believe you can make changes in the Cabinet at present without causing any upheavals, especially in such a major portfolio such as that of the Foreign Ministry?

[Shamir] You ask a very good question. I do not believe that these days, when we are so busy with the economic struggle which is of such vital importance to us, are the best time to make changes in the Cabinet; but I hope we will overcome this, and eventually the time for these things will come.

[Ahime'ir] By the way, were you the one who directed Minister Levi to become involved in the economic issues and to help Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad?

[Shamir] I did not direct him, but everyone knows that we all have the intention and the will to help each other. I have complete trust in Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad. I have deep appreciation for his efforts, and I am sure that he will succeed. We are eager to help him, and if this or that Cabinet member, if the deputy prime minister, can help him, then why not?

[Ronen] Minister Moda'i as well?

[Shamir] Moda'i too, why not?

[Ahime'ir] Does this not constitute a blow to the status of Kohen-Orgad?

[Shamir] By no means— he is the leader in this struggle and we are helping him; we are behind him.

[Ahime'ir] A last question, Mr Prime Minister: Taking into consideration all the difficulties and internal problems of the government, of which you must be aware more than anyone else, do you believe that you will stay in office as prime minister until the lawful end of your tenure; that is, until the end of 1985?

[Shamir] This is what I would like to happen, it does not depend entirely on me but I will do my best; not because I want to be prime minister for a longer or shorter period of time, but because I believe that I am fulfilling a mission. The continuation of this government and the implementation of the policy to which this government is dedicated is a national obligation, an obligation which rests upon myself and my colleagues, and we must fulfill it as best as we can.

Sharon Loses in Vote for Aliyah Department Head

TA111811 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The appointment of Minister Ari'el Sharon as head of the World Zionist Organization's [WZO] Aliyah Department was defeated. Some 59 WZO members voted against Sharon's appointment, and only 48 delegates supported him. The chairman of the WZO Executive, Arye Dultzin, told our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh that he did not foresee a rift with Herut. According to him, the aliyah portfolio is reserved for it. He expressed the hope that Herut would now propose an acceptable candidate.

Poll Indicates Navon Favored as Prime Minister

TA010908 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Tel Aviv — Former president Yitzhaq Navon edged into a slight lead over Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir as the man preferred by Israelis to be prime minister in a poll conducted for *THE JERUSALEM POST* last month.

Replying to the question, "Who is best suited to serve as prime minister?" Navon was named by 18 percent of the respondents, up form 13.7 percent in the October poll. Shamir trailed slightly behind, with 17.6 percent of the respondents selecting him, compared with the 15.6 percent he gleaned in the October poll.

The poll, which covered a representative sampling of 1,292 adults in the second half of December, was conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Institute.

Institute director Dr. Sara Shemer noted that it is very unusual for a member of an opposition party to gain the top spot in such a poll, since the public generally shows a marked preference for the incumbent office holder. But fully one third of the interviewees chose not to respond to the question, she pointed out.

Third choice for prime minister was former Premier Yitzhaq Rabin, with 8.7 percent (11.8 percent in October). Despite his drop in popularity, Rabin was still far ahead of Labour Party chairman Shim'on Peres, who was selected by 4.9 percent (down from 7.1 percent in October).

Former Premier Menahem Begin got 5.6 percent in the December poll, taking a nosedive from his 33.2 percent support in the July poll. Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, who was not even considered a potential premier in the July poll, was chosen by 4.7 percent in October and dropped off to 3.6 percent in December.

A similarly unusual pattern emerged on the question, whom do you prefer as Foreign Minister? First place went to former Foreign Minister and Labour MK Abba Eban, with 13.9 percent, while Yitzhaq Shamir, who has been holding the office for several years, was slightly behind with 12.6 percent.

David Levi was backed by only 7 percent, though he was ahead of Moshe Arens, who got 4.2 percent. Yitzhaq Moda'i, whose name had been mentioned as a possible foreign minister, got only 0.7 percent. An exceptionally high 46.3 percent of the respondents answered "do not know" on this issue.

Incumbent Yig'al Kohen-Orgad was the most preferred finance minister with 19.7 percent, followed by Yig'al Hurvitz, with 11.4 percent. Former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, who enjoyed the support of 20.3 percent in July, got only 2.2 percent in December.

Minister Ne'eman on Budget Effect on Settlement

TA111335 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Interview with Science and Development Minister Yuval Ne'eman by 'Oded Ben-'Ami, in the Knesset radio studio — live]

[Excerpt] [Ben-'Ami] I would first like to know if you already know the cut in the budget for settlements following the decision of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs?

[Ne'eman] Only approximately. I do not yet have a full picture, although I think I know the situation, more or less. It is my estimation that there will be a decrease in the general state budget, of 9 percent on the average. I have not seen the details yet. I know that in principle, the government has not changed its policy. There has been a great deal of talk on an alternative government, but since this is not an alternative government, this government wants to continue developing Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The plans remain the same. Everything should be done with reduced means.

[Ben-'Ami] I assume that in any event a cut in the housing and construction sphere, as well as in the education and communications spheres, will definitely affect investments in Judaea and Samaria.

[Ne'eman] All of the cuts definitely apply to Judaea and Samaria: There are schools and clinics there as well. In construction too — it is clear that if there is less building in Israel there will be less building there. Nevertheless, we will try, and I believe the figures for the cuts will make this possible, not to lessen the scope of development and settlement. Standards will be lowered. What do I mean by this? Roads for example — we may not have the good roads we would like t have, and will have to settle for dirt roads. Another example: The participation of the government in settlers' building investments, which follows regional criteria, will have to decrease to a certain degree.

Deputy Prime Minister and Housing and Construction Minister David Levi, for example, was inclined toward permanent building for economic reasons. Now, since we have no choice, we will occasionally need to have temporary, prefabricated build ings which will be made permanent in due course.

[Ben-'Ami] Minister Ne'eman, an ideological question arises: Will people who are in the lead regarding the ideal Judaea and Samaria, including you of course, exert pressure on the government to decrease, as much as possible, the blow to development in Judaea and Samaria, when at the same time Israeli citizens not living in Judaea and Samaria will feel the burden of the economic cuts in every walk of life? Will the fury regarding a possible blow to Judaea and Samaria settlements subside if this is not the case?

[Ne'eman] I think that Judaea and Samaria settlers and all the people interested in developing Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights understand that where there are fewer means, we will try to do much the same with less. There is no question here of allowing the other parts of the country to degenerate before building in the territories is completed. If we take the construction sphere: There were 26,000 new building starts in Israel last year, with the building starts in Judaea and Samaria amounting to less than 3,000 of this total. This picture then that the country's economy is suffering due to settlement is a picture painted by the Alignment, a baseless story. Anyone who looks at the facts and figures knows this is unfounded.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you not also referring to TAMI, not only the Alignment, when you talk of the demand to freeze settlements? It seems to me that it is TAMI which has lately and loudly joined the voices demanding a freeze on settlements.

[Ne'eman] I have indeed heard a comment on this attributed to MK Abu-Hatzera. However, I know that Deputy Labor and Social Welfare Minister Ben-Tziyon Rubin, who was the one to conduct the struggle over TAMI's demands regarding a reduced cut in the social welfare services budget, is himself a supporter of the greater Eretz Yisra'el idea. Therefore, I do not believe that his pressure emanates from TAMI. TAMI was afraid that the poor families would be hurt, and I think that nobody intended to harm them.

[Ben-'Ami] A TAMI member, Eli Dayan, said a few minutes ago that a freeze on settlements is one of TAMI's conditions for remaining in the coalition.

[Ne'eman] I hope he was not authorized to make this comment on TAMI's behalf. I do not think that TAMI raised such a demand. I suggest you ask the authoritative TAMI members on this, Ben-Tziyon Rubin for example. From the point of view of budget cuts, I think that psychologically it is the Tehiya members who have known, ever since the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt, that this trouble would befall us. If you calculate the price of oil, the expenditures in dollars for oil since we gave up the Sinai, this amounts to about $10 billion, and it is no wonder we have this hole in our pocket.

Mondale Asked To Condemn Administration Policy

TA120541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The Israeli Embassy in Washington has approached Walter Mondale's election campaign headquarters requesting that he condemn the Administration's position on President Mubarak's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. Mondale is running for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. Our Washington correspondent, Razi Barqay, has learned that a senior Israeli Embassy official briefed Mondale's aides, after which the candidate issued a sharp statement condemning the administration.

Embassy Intervention Denied

TA120616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that a decision was taken at the Israeli Embassy in Washington to take firm action and exploit the election year to try to score achievements. The embassy will thus initiate actions to increase the U.S. aid even more, and will try to change the administration's position on the development of the Lavi arircraft. It will also try to persuade the United States to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem.

Some officials in the Israeli Embassy have expressed opposition to this line, describing it as an imaginary plan that will ultimately harm Israel's interests and its good ties with President Reagan.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem has totally denied this report. He emphasized that the embassy does not intervene in domestic U.S. affairs. The Foreign Ministry spokesman explained that after President Mubarak's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, many had approached the Israeli Embassy requesting information on Jerusalem's reaction to it.

Jerusalem Source Says 'Arafat Expected in Amman

TA120825 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jan 84 p 1

[Report by David Richardson]

[Excerpt] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected in Amman "within the next ten days, or at the latest by the end of the month," according to a prominent East Jerusalem person who returned from the Jordanian capital late yesterday.

This person was in Amman for the recent reconvening of the Jordanian parliament and the appointment of a new government.

He said that the strong feeling among Jordanian government circles was that if 'Arafat did not come, "he would be missing a rare opportunity for the coordination of forthcoming diplomatic moves in the area."

West Bank observers said last night that the increase in the number of West Bank Palestinians in the new Jordanian Cabinet (seven as compared to five in the outgoing Cabinet) and their appointment to key portfolios was clearly intended as a signal that King Husayn was more willing to involve himself in the future of the area than in the past.

However, opinion was still sharply divided whether the king could go ahead and negotiate on his own if 'Arafat did not give him the go ahead.

IDF Commander Warns Against Sidon Evacuation

TA120810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Report on interview with the commander of the Northern Command, Major General Ori Or, by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal, in Sidon on 11 January — recorded]

[Text] [Tal] The commander of the Northern Command thinks that the reason the Lebanese Army called off the plan for its redeployment along strategically located points in the south and along the coastal road yesterday has to do with the serious problem of lack of communication between the various factions and official Beirut.

[Or] Both the Druze and the Lebanese Government still do not have faith in each other. The Lebanese Administration wanted all members of the National Reconciliation Committee to know about it, [antecedent unclear] and be involved in it. However, if you recall how the committee was made up, this was not an easy feat. Third, the Syrians, too, are involved in the matter and, apparently, they were displeased that such an agreement existed, and that it would be implemented soon.

In our opinion, this was the reasons: the ever-present mutual suspicion.

[Tal] If the agreement is implemented and the Lebanese Army does redeploy in the south, Gen Or says, the government will increase its control over that area, the Druze will have access to the coastal road, and their status in the Lebanese regime will be strengthened. Also, the interfactional pressure machine will ease up.

As for the Al-Awwali line, the commander says: Fortunately, the fear that this line would absorb or attract fire did not materialize. The funds spent on the new line will have been spent to allow the soldiers to enjoy comfortable living conditions.

Regarding the solution of the problem of staying in Lebanon, he said: Increased central government control over this area could provide the answer to this and permit the IDF to depart.

[Or] I would like to see a Lebanese battalion enter Sidon tomorrow, as I told you, and establish order there — this so I can go southward to hold the area I think is essential to guarantee peace for the Galilee. This is the place I think we should control. Regarding the areas I would leave, the goal is to have some kind of main force there. This is a great hope, but its implementation is not all that simple. However, this is what we are trying to achieve. Thus Sidon should be viewed as one aspect of the overall southern Lebanese problem, not as a seperate issue.

[Tal] Are we fulfilling an essential role here, by being in this town or in general remaining in densely-populated areas. In fact, is this all we do or are we here mostly to defend ourselves?

[Or] All of Lebanon is populated. The issue is whether to be in Lebanon or not, or in parts of Lebanon. If you are talking only about Sidon — if I should leave it today, it would become a hotbed for terrorists. And you must never forget that Sidon is the capital of the south. It is easier for me to control Sidon while being in its midst rather than having it as an open arena for terrorism. Therefore, anyone who talks about leaving only Sidon is, in my opinion, wrong.

[Tal] So what you are saying is that you would not recommend it?

[Or] I would recommend that Sidon be evacuated as part of a comprehensive settlement, not in an isolated framework. One must also remember that it is impossible to leave Sidon today, because then people would say: Sure, there were incidents, and that is why they left Sidon. Tomorrow, then, the same kind of logic would be applicable to Tyre, An-Nabatiyah, and Marj 'Uyun as well.

Spanish Opposition Leader Ends Visit, Comments

TA111356 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The leader of the Spanish opposition party, Manuel Fraga, has ended his visit to Israel. At noon, the Spanish guest concluded his talks in Israel. Foreign news editor Gid'on Remez reports:

[Begin recording] [Remez] Fraga says he fully agreed with the government led by the Likud, a sister party as he put it, on the two main issues pending between Spain and Israel. As for recognition of Israel and establishing full relations with it, this is desirable as soon as possible, according to the two parties. As for Spain's incorporation in the EEC, although this will cause strong competition with Israel, both Fraga and his Israeli interlocutors, including Prime Minister Shamir, believe that it is cooperation and not opposition that should characterize the approach to the matter. The interests of both parties should be guaranteed rather than conflicting.

On other issues, we hear more surprising and unexpected answers. For instance, can it be assumed that Spain and Israel will cooperate on combatting terror? [passage indistinct with Fraga remarks in English]

The roots for many of the terrorist problems in the world are in the Middle East, Fraga said. Your Mosad is still one of the best agencies for anti-terrorist activity, and I would therefore like to see more cooperation on this matter, he stated. [end recording]

Yaron Promoted Despite Commission Recommendation

TA120817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Brigadier General 'Amos Yaron, the chief of the Manpower Branch in the IDF General Staff, will today be promoted to the rank of major general. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Brig Gen Yaron was appointed head of the Manpower Branch a few months ago, and was expected to be promoted then, but the matter was put off because of the conclusions reached by the Kahan Commission, which recommended that he not be given a command post for 3 years.

IDF Changes Directives on Settlers Use of Arms

TA112002 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The IDF Central Command has changed its directive regarding the use of arms by the settlers. In accordance with the new instructions, an Israeli citizen who happens onto a scene where stones are being thrown must disengage himself from any contact, and not pursue the stonethrowers. Our correspondent on settlement affairs, Rami Gubernik, reports that in accordance with the new directives, the use of arms is permitted only in a clear case of danger to human life.

A few weeks ago, the commander of Central Command recommended that the settlers pursue stonethrowers and seize them. In view of the new directives forbidding such pursuit or shooting, the residents of Qarne Shomron have decided to return the weapons in their possession to the IDF authorities. The Knesset Public Audit Committee is due to tour Judaea and Samaria tomorrow. It will be accompanied by Ms Yehudit Karp, the deputy attorney general.

Spokesman Clarifies Directives

TA120942 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] The IDF spokesman announced that the directives on the use of arms by the settlers date back to more than a month ago and are intended to clarify other directives which have been in existence for a very long time now. The spokesman's announcement came in reaction to the report broadcast on television yesterday indicating that the directives on the use of arms in the territories had been changed.

According to these directives, Israeli citizens in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza can fire only for defensive purposes. Contrary to the television's report, there is no connection or contradiction between these directives and the remarks by the commander of the Central Command about chasing and catching the stone throwers and turning them in to the police. Such pursuit has nothing to do with firing.

Court Sentences Arabs for Attempted Murders

TA110710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The Ramallah military court meted out jail terms of up to 6 years to six Hebron youths who planned to attack and murder Jews. They were convicted of trying to attack and murder Jews in the Hebron and Qiryat Arba' area on several occasions over the past 3 years. In all cases they were armed with knives. Their plans did not materialize because they did not find an appropriate

victim. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that the six admitted that this had indeed been their plan. Two of them were sentenced to 6 years in jail while the others were sentenced to jail terms of between 2 and 1/2 and 3 and 1/2 years.

Court Jails Hebron Resident

TA120828 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] The Ramallah military court yesterday sentenced Muhammad Jihad Namura of Dura near Hebron, to four and a half years in prison and gave him a suspended sentence of two and a half years for organizing a hostile organization in his village, performing acts of sabotage and causing public disturbances.

Namura was recruited three years ago by Fatah when he was in Jordan and took it upon himself to recruit others, the court was told. He planted an explosive charge in his village school, and after it exploded and the children ran out, he led them in a demonstration during which they stoned Israeli vehicles.

The court rejected the argument of Namura's attorney that residents of occupied territory are not required to be loyal to the authorities.

IRC Visits Israeli POW's in Syria 31 December

TA120938 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Jan 84 p 1

[Report from Geneva by Sari Robert]

[Text] The representatives of the International Red Cross [IRC] in Syria visited the three Israeli prisoners of war there on 31 December. The condition of the POW's is satisfactory. These details were reported by the IRC spokesman.

The IRC representatives gave the prisoners letters from their families and took their letters to their families.

The POW's held by Ahmad Jibril have not been visited since 29 November.

Al-Awwali Crossings Open to Traffic

TA111719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The IDF today opened the Al-Awwali River crossings to free traffic, according to the government's decision. Those crossing over the Al-Awwali River will be exempt of the need to present crossing permits. The new terminal, which is currently being constructed, will open within a few days and will alleviate the traffic of vehicles and pedestrians. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports from Sidon that the IDF has opened another bridge on the Al-Awwali River to ease the load. The IDF spokesman explained this evening that the construction of the terminal and the special check and control procedures carried out by the security forces will enable the forces to more efficiently spot sabotage materials and means of warfare on the crossings, and will contribute to apprehending those trying to smuggle them in.

'Good Fence' Crossings Increase

TA101525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] About 700 workers from southern Lebanon cross into Israel to work every day via the Good Fence. The number of Lebanese anxious to work in Israel has increased lately, mainly due to difficulties in crossing the Al-Awwali bridges.

Briefs

Zaire Ambassador Presents Credentials — Zaire's new ambassador to Israel, Ngbanda Nzamboko-Atumba, this morning presented his credentials. He had previously served as a secretary in the Zairian Embassy in Tel Aviv. On Tuesday he will accompany the president on his African tour, the first stop of which will be Zaire. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Jan 84 TA]

Rise In Trade Deficit — Israel's trade deficit rose by 17 percent last year as opposed to the preceding year, totalling $3.47 billion. This emerges from figures published today by the Central Bureau of Statistics. According to economic correspondent Me'ir Einstein, this increased deficit is caused by a 4.5 percent increase in imports, and a 3 percent drop in exports. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Jan 84 TA]

Further Developments in OAU Conference on Chad

Mengistu Sees Guinassou, Goukouni

EA111908 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Current OAU Chairman Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam has continued his efforts to solve the Chadian problem which has caused great damage to both people and property over the last 18 years and has become an issue of continental significance. He said that the Chadians themselves should find a lasting solution to it.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, PMAC [Provisional Military Administrative Council] and COPWE chairman, commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, today held separate and lengthy talks with the leader of the Chadian government delegation, Mr Tahar Guinassou and the leader of the opposition front, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, regarding the meeting.

Comrade Goshu Wolde, foreign minister and COPWE Central Committee member, was present during the talks.

OAU Spokesman on Prospects

AB120824 Paris AFP in English 0720 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Jan 12 (AFP) — The major procedural obstacles to a conference of Chad's politico-military factions scheduled to have opened here last Monday have been overcome, though a few still remain, an Organization of African Unity (OAU) spokesman said here Wednesday.

But the official, who refused to give details, failed to convince observers that the wrangling had not gone on too long for there to be any hope that the OAU-sponsored conference would start and end as scheduled by Friday.

The talks, aimed at bringing the original 11 signatories of the 1979 Lagos agreement together to renegotiate a permanent peace for their war-devastated country, have been bogged down over procedural problems for the past three days.

The OAU spokesman indicated, however, that a next round in the ongoing discussions might "lead to something concrete." He said OAU Chairman and Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam had a working breakfast Wednesday with the Ndjamena government delegation headed by Interior Minister Taha Guinassou — his third meeting since Monday with representatives of Chadian President Hissein Habre's regime.

Col Mengistu is due to have another meeting today with ousted Chadian leader Goukouni Oueddei, with whom he conferred Monday after Mr Goukouni arrived here.

An official of the Habre delegation told reporters that remaining obstacles centered on the claim of the Ndjamena team — which is officially recognized by the OAU — that it alone was entitled to display the Chadian flag and emblem at the conference table.

However the OAU favoured neither side doing so, said the official who declined to be named. He added that the Ndjamena delegation had no objection to formal negotiations going ahead as long as it sat as a government, and the Goukouni team, comprising some seven delegations, sat as an opposition. He said national reconciliation was possible only when the opposition agreed to join the existing institutions within the Ndjamena government.

Mr Habre's government was forced to negotiate only because it lacked the material means to drive out the Libyans, he said, implying that the Goukouni forces were negligible without Libyan combat support.

If these are the main problems, observers noted, the positions of the rival sides seem as irreconcilable as ever.

The talks are thought to have been stalled at the start because of Mr Goukouni's refusal to negotiate with a low-level delegation from Ndjamena in the absence of Mr Habre, whose presence here, he had insisted, must be as an equal. The Habre team, whom he also regards as rebels, should participate in the conference without the legitimacy of the Chadian flag, he said.

It seems the conference may prove to be only a bridge in efforts to seek a lasting solution to the Chadian conflict, as already hinted many times by OAU officials.

Conference Termed Libyan 'Trap'

AB121048 Paris AFP in English 1034 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Ndjamena, Jan 11 (AFP) — Chadian authorities here are becoming increasingly pessimistic about this week's deadlocked Chadian peace conference in Addis Ababa, which they see as a "trap" planned to further Libyan aims.

Libya has troops in the northern part of this troubled central African country, backing insurgents led by Ex-President Goukouni Oueddei, while the French-backed forces of President Hissein Habre hold the south.

The Addis Ababa conference, to which the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had invited all 11 politico-military factions from Chad, was due to start on Monday but has so far been held up by "procedural obstacles."

The CHADIAN NEWS AGENCY (ATP) said the attitude of the Ethiopian Government in Addis Ababa proved it subscribed to the Libyan idea of organizing "a conference of tendencies." This automatically cast doubt on the legitimacy of the current Government of Chad here, and would allow Libya to introduce its pawns into any future coalition government, the agency said.

ATP said Mr Goukouni, President Habre's chief rival, had been welcomed in Addis Ababa "with all the ceremony due to a head of state." Mr Habre is not attending the conference, but has sent a delegation. ATP stressed that all contact between the Chadian "government and opposition delegations" in Addis Ababa had been banned by the Ethiopians.

"The unacknowledged aim of the Ethiopians' attitude is to drive the Chadian Government delegation to slam the door so it can be blamed for the failure of the conference," the agency said. "The truth of the matter is that Libya, like Ethiopia, wants nothing to do with this conference."

Libya wanted to maintain "crisis and confusion" for as long as possible to allow Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to "consolidate his presence in Chad and continue his conquest of the country."

ATP said that while Ethiopia, whose leader Mengistu Haile Mariam is the current OAU chairman, would like to take credit for the success of a Chad peace conference, its links with Libya and the Soviet Union were so strong that it could not play the part of objective mediator on such a delicate issue. "The blunderings at Addis Ababa are clear proof that Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu wants to preserve his alliances, even if this threatens the very existence of the OAU," the agency said.

Authorities here see Lt Col Mengistu's refusal to meet the "government delegation" personally, and the banning of even informal contacts between the rival Chadian delegations, as proof the meeting is a "trap" that can have no tangible results.

Observers here believe the "lack of preparation" for the conference, constantly underlined by the government here, is the real reason Mr Habre did not attend. However, observers also think Mr Habre might still go to Addis Ababa if the conference gets under way "in the right circumstances."

But Mr Habre is due to attend next week's Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) summit in Morocco, to be held from January 15 to 18, and the Addis Ababa conference thus could become "another missed appointment."

MOROCCO

Djibouti Foreign Minister Arrives for Conference

LD101856 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Casablanca, 10 Jan (MAP) — Mr Moumin Farah, the foreign minister of Djibouti, arrived today in Morocco to participate in the conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers which will be held between 12 and 14 January in Morocco,in preparation of the fourth Islamic summit.

SUDAN

Foreign Minister Mubarak Leaves for Rabat

JN112022 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Jan (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak has left Khartoum for Rabat to lead Sudan's delegation to the preparatory meeting of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, due to begin its work in Rabat on Thursday and continue until 14 January.

It is noteworthy that the ministerial meeting will draw up an agenda for the Islamic summit conference scheduled to be held in Casablanca between 16-18 January. Sudan's delegation to the ministerial conference left earlier for Rabat.

It has also been learned that Sudan will lead an expanded move during both the ministerial conference and summit conference to explain the Islamic image of Sudan, and the developments that took place in Sudan within the framework of applying Islamic law. Moves will also be made to stress Sudan's support for Iraq's peaceful initiatives to end the Iraq-Iran war. Sudan will also effectively contribute to topics on the agenda.

Numayri Addresses SSU Meeting on Domestic Issues

JN112135 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpts] President Ja'far Numayri has reaffirmed that Islamic law will be a great struggle that will bolster the national will and realize the genuine essence and meaning of freedom. The president said that Islamic law also represents a purely national action with which we will promote the values of the true Islamic religion and from which we will derive our reality and heritage.

In a speech he delivered this morning before the fifth meeting of the Executive Bureau of the SSU Central Command, President Numayri said: The Islamic law, which we have adopted, represents the will of the people who adhere to their religion and reality, and who aspire to their future. He also said: Our method will never be a regression for the homeland; it will constitute a great leap for the homeland toward the threshold of progress on the basis of which we will adhere to our accomplishments and achievements in the fields of politics, popular authority, decentralization, and national unity.

President Numayri emphasized the need for an efficient political system because it constitutes a pillar of national action and political structure. This is because our political system is a comprehensive mass organization. In this respect, Numayri said that the political system must not stagnate; it should not lag behind our achievements.

The president said: In my independence day anniversary speech, I emphasized certain salient facts and adopted principles. What made the speech important were tendentious rumors and false claims. [not futher identified] Some people imagined these rumors to be true. The president added: This would not have happened had there been real political efforts by our political system, which was about to allow the misled, deluded persons to play havoc with the country. These deluded and misled people rushed forward to fill the vacuum, raising false claims and endeavoring to contain [the system]. Had our political organization taken the initiative and embarked on the path of explaining the system in its true spirit, this would not have happened.

President Numayri stressed the need for self-evaluation and self-criticism in order to affirm the political system's importance in national action and to ensure its role in policymaking. He said: We are not working in a vacuum. Our organizations and systems will continue to have a vanguard position. The efficiency of our political system and organization has always been affirmed both in the presence and absence of the head of state. We are proud of our institutions and their role, the president added.

The president said that the country is passing through a delicate, important phase which requires alertness and readiness from the SSU to carry out its tasks and duties. We will escalate our sacrifices for the homeland and our services to the people amid the current hostile campaigns that aim to strike at our nation's unity which we have built with our blood, sweat, and efforts. The more achievements we realize, the fiercer this hostility becomes.

The president said: As we are able to face this hostility through our determiantion, I, as SSU president, must pay tribute to our armed forces who [word indistinct] have been a model to be emulated by their commitment and faith. Our armed forces have been able to confront hostile attacks and to face all the attempts at undermining our unity with valor, firmness, and courage.

The president added: We must decisively face attempts at undermining and destroying our unity by adhering to the revolution's achievements, armed with the principles and traditions of our political system. The president called for supporting the Islamic path by adhering to it without any wavering so that nobody will be able to contain it.

The president called for firm faith in national unity and for removing impurities in the national soil and obstacles on the path of the country's unity. Stress should be laid on selfless service to the homeland and effective contribution toward building the country. He said we must guide our footsteps by voicing pride in our past achievements and being ready to achieve more. The president called for readiness to face all challenges by committing ourselves to the principles of the revolution, to the SSU as a framework, to national unity as an aim, Islam as a path, and justice and equality as a practice.

Concluding his speech, Numayri said: Let us leave those who dream of their dreams. Let us continue on our path, building the nation's glory through our struggle. Let us raise the banner of Islam by our commitment to it. Let us make Sudan proud because we are sincere and committed.

WESTERN SAHARA

Polisario Official Warns of Danger to Peace

LD112131 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Mr Mohamed Ould Salek, member of the Polisario Front's Political Bureau in charge of external relations, this afternoon held a press conference in Algiers, in which he declared that there is a danger that 1984 will be the year of great conspiracy against peace in northwest Africa.

[Begin Ould Salek recording] Indeed, the specter of a general upheaval in the region is today more than ever in view with the Moroccan regime's intention to construct new walls in the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. Also, this conspiracy against peace proceeds from a veritable plot minutely worked out by the king of Morocco at the time of his last visit to the United States and other European capitals. This plot, in its first phase, consists of the building of new walls, after the "useful triangle" has shown itself to be ineffective and without success for the Moroccan Army in the face of the great battles waged by our [word indistinct] army of liberation, in particular at Lemcid and at Smara during last summer. [end recording]

The Saharan leader also evoked the conciliatory and positive attitude of the SDAR Government:

[Begin Ould Salek recording] The SDAR Government and the Polisario Front have done everything in favor of peace on the basis of the implementation of the OAU and UN resolutions, while recognizing the rights of the Saharan people to independent self-determination and advocating direct negotiations between the two belligerents, Morocco and the Polisario Front, with an eye towards defining and working out the terms of a referandum on self-determination as well as a cease-fire. In the course of 8 years of war, our country has [word indistinct] to contribute greatly to the efforts of the OAU, the UN and the Nonaligned Movement in order to peacefully resolve a decolonization conflict which brings our people in confrontation with the Moroccan aggressor. [end recording]

In conclusion, Mr Mohamed Ould Salek stated that the Saharan people, who are struggling for their right to self-determination, will pursue their struggle until the final victory. The Saharan Government, he added, and the Polisario Front puts the responsibility for the continuation of the war upon the shoulders of Morocco and all those who support the aggression against our country.

BENIN

Kerekou Receives Nigerian Defense Minister Bali

AB112150 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Head of state President Kerekou this afternoon received in audience Major General Bali, Nigerian minister of defense. Comrade Bali was introduced to the President's office by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Comrade Tiamiou Adjibade. After the audience, which took place in the presence of Comrades Gado Girigissou, member of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin, chairman of the External Relations Committee of the Central Committee, and Michel Alladaye, minister of interior and public security, Maj Gen Bali said he had come to deliver a message from the Nigerian head of state, General Muhammadu Buhari, to President Kerekou.

[Begin recording][Bali, in English fading into French translation] Well, the main theme of my visit to the Republic of Benin is to present to his excellency the head of state of this country a message from my own head of state, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, Gen Muhammadu Buhari. Concerning our discussions with the president, we talked about the change of government in Nigeria. We also talked about the common interest between the two countries, bilateral relations between Benin and Nigeria, as well as security between the two countries.

[Unidentified reporter] How do you see the future of relations between Nigeria and Benin following the change in Nigeria?

[Bali] I don't think the relationship between this country and Nigeria is likely to turn for the worse at any given time with this regime or any other regime. I think the desire between the two countries to cooperate and to strengthen their relationship goes beyond and deeper than governments. [end recording]

GUINEA

Ghana's Rawlings Welcomed by Toure, Haiti's Chanoine

AB112120 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Ghanaian head of state Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings paid a working visit to our country today, Wednesday. The Ghanaian head of state was welcomed at the Conakry-Gbessia International Airport by President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who was accompanied by Haiti Prime Minister Jean-Marie Chanoine [title as received]. Also present at the Conakry-Gbessia International Airport on this occasion were the members of the National Political Bureau, the members of the Central Committee and the government, members of national youth, women's, and workers organizations, the staff of the Combined Services Regiment, the Guinean Pioneer Movement, the members of the diplomatic and consular corps accredited to our country, as well as the militants of the Ninth Administrative District of the Conakry III Federation.

Haiti's Duvalier Provides Earthquake Relief Aid

AB111455 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The prime minister and minister of state to the Presidency of the Republic of Haiti arrived on Monday evening in Conakry for a state and friendly visit. It must be recalled that Mr Jean-Marie Chanoine, the prime minister and minister of state for the Presidency of the Republic of Haiti, is a bearer of a message from President Jean-Claude Duvalier addressed to President Ahmed Sekou Toure, the head of state and supreme servant of the people. Here is the full text of this message:

[Begin recording] Mr President and very dear friend, the international press and the local media have broadcast very alarming news on the material damages and loss of human life caused by the terrible earthquake that seriously ravaged the territory of your country spreading fear and alarm among the valiant people of the Republic of Guinea. Under such painful circumstances, the entire people of Haiti, united with the people of Guinea by the close and indissoluble ties of natural solidarity, strengthened by our double and common allegiance to the Francophone and African concepts, join me, the life president of the Republic, and my wife to address our most sincere sympathy and condolences to you, the rightful and constitutional leader of the Guinean state and to your sorely tried people.

Dear Colleague and Friend, under these very trying circumstances for the Republic of Guinea, I am sending to you my minister of state to the presidency for information and public relations with the special mission of expressing to you *viva voce* my sympathy and to hand over to you a check for the sum of $100,000 representing my personal contribution to the emergency aid and reconstruction program for the affected areas. [end recording]

GUINEA-BISSAU

Senegal's Niasse Brings Vieira Message From Diouf

AB111820 Paris AFP in English 1438 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Bissau, Jan 11 (AFP) — Senegalese Foreign Minister Moustaphe Niasse paid a brief visit to Bissau yesterday believed to concern the current border dispute between Senegal and Guinea-Bissau.

The minister brought a message for head of state General Joao Bernardo Vieira from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. The dispute concerns the demarcation of territorial waters off the two west African states. It blew up after the Bissau authorities objected to offshore oil searching in the disputed area on behalf of Senegal.

Senegal Condemned for Maritime Border Violation

AB111810 Paris AFP in French 0956 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Bissau, 11 Jan (AFP) — Guinea-Bissau reacted sharply on Monday against the installation by Senegal of oil-prospecting equipment along the disputed maritime border of the two coun-

tries. Mass organizations (youth, women, and workers) have issued a communique condemning Senegal for "violating" the disputed zone and urging that the dispute should be resolved "in conformity with the norms that govern the relations between neighboring states." A march of support for the government, followed by a mass rally, was staged in Bissau to "reaffirm the people's willingness to do everything to safeguard Guinea-Bissau's integrity and sovereignty." During the rally, Rural Development Minister Paulo Correia stated that the situation was "preoccupying" and that Guinea-Bissau was ready to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Foreign Minister Fidelis Cabral D'Almada held a meeting with the members of the diplomatic corps to inform them of the situation. He told them that two oil-prospecting ships have already arrived at the border with Senegal and that a third ship is sailing toward the zone.

(Informed sources in [word indistinct] specify that the two vessels are Dutch, the *Nedrill II*, and Canadian, the *Balder Challenger*, chartered by Petro-Canada, the Canadian company mandated by Senegal to carry out onshore and offshore prospecting operations. The prospecting carried out by Senegal in that region has led to the discovery of about 100 milliom tons of heavy oil, the exploitation of which is said to be difficult and the refining costly.)

According to Bissau, Senegal and Guinea-Bissau had already reached a compromise on the border dispute. Under the compromise, no country should undertake prospecting in the disputed zone until a legal solution has been found. The dispute on the border demarcation was expected to be referred to the Hague International Court of Justice. According to the stands defined in 1979, Guinea-Bissau wanted a demarcation which would take into account agreements signed in 1885 between Portugal and France, the colonial powers that ruled Bissau and Dakar. Senegal on its part chose as a basis an exchange of letters dated 1960 between Lisbon and Paris modifying the demarcation of the border, but Bissau challenges its legal validity claiming that it was not given official legal recognition. The disputed maritime zone is now wider since the two countries have fixed boundaries as far as 200 miles out on their continental shelves.

There is a similar problem between Guinea-Bissau and Guinea-Conakry over the demarcation of their sea borders. Demarcations proposed by Senegal on the one hand and by Guinea-Conakry on the other meet within the 200-mile zone of Guinea-Bissau, and if they were officially recognized would cut off a great deal of the country's maritime zone and would narrow its way to the open sea, observers note.

LIBERIA

Doe Dismisses Commerce, Industry Minister Dwanyen

AB111720 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The minister of commerce, industry, and transportation, Major David Dwanyen, has been dismissed by the head of state, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe. He was dismissed for what was termed as ineffectiveness in administering the affairs of the ministry.

According to the Executive Mansion press release, head of state Doe took the decision today after visiting the Commerce Ministry to personally probe allegations that the minister had been arbitrarily issuing permits for the importation of goods that are locally manufactured. The investigations, which took the head of state to the Ministries of Finance, Planning, and the National Investment Commission, also confirmed that Minister Dwanyen, on January 3, 1984, issued a permit to local vendors for the importation of 2,500 pieces of auto batteries in spite of the ban on the importation of this commodity. Major Dwanyen had denied that he issued the permit.

Meanwhile, the head of state, with the advice and consent of the Council, has appointed Mrs (Maliyu) Dapor as minister of commerce, industry, and transportation. Mr J.C. Williams becomes deputy minister of commerce for administration, while Colonel Arthur Benson moves to the General Services Agency as deputy director general for administration.

MALI

Independent Student Group in USSR Asked To Disband

AB111605 Paris AFP in French 0946 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow, 11 Jan (AFP) — A group of Malian students in the Soviet Union recently complained about "arbitrary measures" taken against them by the Mali Embassy in Moscow because of their refusal to join the "Malian Youth Union" (which in Bamako consists of all Malian nationals from 8 to 40 years of age).

According to the students, the diplomatic representation of Mali in the USSR "enjoined" them to dissolve the "Union of Malian Students in the USSR," which they formed in 1979, and to join the official organization.

Questioned by AFP, a representative of the diplomatic mission explained that membership to "Youth Union," as stipulated by the Malian Constitution, was "a civic duty" for all Malian nationals. This membership is, however, "free," he said, adding that the Constitution did not recognize any other youth or student organization. This diplomat denied that the embassy was refusing to renew the passports of contesting students, as they had declared to AFP: "We refuse to give them the authorization to leave the USSR for their holidays," he explained, "because here it is a question of a favor and not a right."

The "Malian Students Union in the USSR" claims to have "about 500 members." The Malian diplomat, however, says that this contesting group "has at most 20 members out of the 1,000 students in the USSR."

NIGERIA

Government Asks IMF To Postpone Loan Talks

AB112009 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 11 Jan 84

[By Edward Poultney]

[Text] Lagos, Jan 11 (AFP) — Nigeria has asked the International Monetary Fund to delay next week's talks on a two billion dollar loan for this indebted oil-producing country, it was learnt here today. Reliable sources said that more time was needed before the proposed talks in Washington to allow the new finance minister to brief himself fully on Nigeria's economic situation following the military coup 12 days ago.

The ruling Supreme Military Council still has to name its ministers, probably tomorrow or on Friday, but most are expected to be civilians. Business and banking circles are pleased that Finance Ministry Permanent Secretary Alhaji Abubakar Alhaji has been kept on by the new leaders. He is a competent administrator with a full grasp of the economic problems. He has taken part in all previous talks on new loans and rescheduling existing debts.

Nigeria is currently producing around 1.3 million barrels of oil a day, which is its quota under existing agreement between members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Estimates for revenue in the coming year are 10.5 billion dollars, with oil providing about 9.5 billion. The country is in a relatively strong position compared to many other major developing states, particularly in Latin America. However the ousted civilian government ran up sizeable debts during its four and a half years in office, due mainly to mismanagement and extravagance.

The military government is still going through the books left by the civilians, and economists say that preliminary figures produced by head of state Major-General Muhammadu Buhari just after the coup seemed to have been rustled up in a hurry and were not entirely reliable. They said that at the end of last year Nigeria had accumulated guaranteed debts of about 2.5 billion dollars, including interest charges. Another two billion is owed on a long-standing letter of credit debt which has already been rescheduled, and there is an open account debt of 4.5 billion dollars for which no foreign exchange is available. Central Bank approval is still awaited for another billion.

A delegation from three European merchant banks, acting jointly as consultants to the Nigerians, flew in here earlier this for a policy briefing with the new authorities. Before the change of government the consultant banks had drawn up a debt refinancing programme which was approved by the civilian government. The fresh talks will show whether the military government intends to act along the same lines as its predecessors. Most of the 4.5 billion dollar open account debt is believed to be guaranteed by government-related insurance in creditor countries, such as Britain's Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD).

Faced with its growing problems, the civlian government managed to cut imports last year by about 25 percent to some 11.5 billion dollars. Shortly before the coup the last government announced an "austerity" budget, but sources here said that various interest groups had already started lobbying for higher allocations for different sectors. The allocations were never made public, and the junta will have to come up with an interim budget.

For the time being Nigeria remains desperately short of cash, which is needed to clear up the mess left by the civilians. Food imports have been taking over 20 percent of the country's import bill, and, while the military has managed to put huge quantities of hoarded goods onto the market they will eventually need to find a way of keeping essentials available and prices down. First indications are that the military government recognises the importance of the lively private sector in Nigeria, whose 100 million people provide a vast consumer market.

It seems unlikely that major companies operating here would find themselves in difficulty because of government policies still to be announced, according to economists here. Smaller local companies might fall victim to any additional restrictions, however.

The National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) is believed to be advising the military that it would be hazardous to break the OPEC quota agreement. Any move to increase oil exports would merely trigger a price war which would be unproductive and possibly dangerous.

Buhari, SMC Members Meet With Enugu Army Officers

AB111406 Lagos NAN in English 1358 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Enugu, Jan 11 (NAN) — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, visited Enugu today in continuation of his calls to Army divisions in the country.

Accompanied by some members of the Supreme Military Council, he was met on arrival by top military officials of the 82d Division of the Nigerian Army, the governor of Anambra, Commander Allison Mabueke, squadron leader Nkrudeen Ahmed of the Air Force and some Anambra top civil servants.

The head of state briefly visited the 82d Division headquarters, from where he later went to the division's officers mess to brief the officers in a closed-door session. Though his visit was not known much in advance, people lined up at many spots of Enugu Airport and the army garrison to catch a glimpse of the new head of state. Major General Buhari left Enugu to return to Lagos soon after his sessions with the 82d Division.

Controversy Over Development of Abuja Viewed

AB111240 Lagos NAN in English 0910 GMT 11 Jan 84

[NAN feature: "Abuja: The Development So Far"; by Sylvester Akele, NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA]

[Excerpts] When in a dawn broadcast of February 3, 1976, the then head of state, the late General Murtala Mohammed announced the removal of the federal capital inland from Lagos to Abuja, many Nigerians were sceptical about the ability of his government to implement the gigantic project.

Despite the present controversy on how much money has been spent on developing Abuja, it has become a reality seven years after the historic announcement. Structures and sophisticated architectural designs have become permanent features of what used to be virgin grassland. At present more than 15,000 people live there.

The major problems inhibiting the development of Abuja seem to be lack of finance, poor quality of work and suspected fraud. Recently, the former minister of the federal capital territory, Haliru Dantoro, described some houses in Nyanya, a labour camp, as "unfit for anybody to live in". He ordered that the names of all those who certified that the houses were satisfactorily completed should be submitted to him for disciplinary action. A day before that order, he had suspended 37 members of staff for coming in late.

Abuja has generated much controversy over the amount spent on building it. Some people believe that the development so far is not worth the money spent, which the former minister put at about N1.3 billion. This might be true. For if one takes a walk along some of the roads, many of the broken slabs which are supposed to be covering [passage indistinct] those who are supposed to certify jobs as satisfactorily completed."

Is the development so far really worth N1.3 billion? A member of the disbanded House of Representatives Committee on Abuja, Mohammed Maiwada, who visited Abuja some time ago, told this writer that it could be justified. He described the progress as impressive.

According to him, "What government should concentrate on is the development of basic infrastructure — roads, electricity, water and communications facilities — which would encourage private investors to assist in further development". He also believes that those who criticise Abuja are either motivated by politics or have vested financial interests in Lagos, or criticise merely because of ethnic sentiments. "Abuja is a symbol of national unity since it belongs to all Nigerians. So if anybody is to criticise it, he should do so objectively", Maiwaida said.

Abuja will continue to be a controversial issue, especially in the light of the nation's present economic problems. Concerning those who did not comply with contract agreements, they should be treated as criminals. Anything short of this is cosmetic. Now that the nation faces extremely pressing and grave financial problems, what now happens to Abuja? Will it become a white elephant, another monument to planlessness, corruption and inefficency?

UPN Head Complains of 'Savage' Search by Military

AB111140 Lagos NAN in English 0841 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 10 (NAN) — The leader of the proscribed Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) today reported to the Lagos State Police Command at Ikeja in compliance with directives that political leaders should show up.

Chief Awalowo complained to newsmen after meeting with the state police commissioner, Alhaji Mamman Nasarawa, that his Park Lane residence at Apapa was searched by some military men in a manner he described as savage. He said that the search group broke his wardrobe and removed his passport and a file containing a letter from one Mr Egbe. Chief Awolowo described the action as a violation of his privacy. "If there are any rights left in the partially suspended constitution, I definitely intend a court action against the military men", he said. He said that he was away in his hometown in Ikenne when the search was conducted.

Chief Awolowo said that he suspected some foul play in the way and manner in which Chief Adisa Akinloye, chairman of the banned NPN [National Party of Nigeria], and Chief Richard Akinjide, the former attorney-general, outwitted the police and escaped. He alleged that somebody must have aided and abetted the escape of the two wanted persons.

He said that his willingness to serve under a non-elective government would depend on the circumstance and terms of such service. He said that members of the banned UPN were free to decide as individuals whether or not to serve in the present administration.

Oyo Police Issue Clarification on Akinjide

AB111048 Lagos NAN in English 0836 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Ibadan, Jan 10 (NAN) — The Oyo state commissioner of police, Mr Nuhu Aliyu, today in Ibadan said that he had not seen the former Attorney General of the Federation Chief Richard Akinjide since the military took over government on December 31 last year.

In a statement issued in Ibadan, the police public relations officer, Mr Kunle Adekoya stated that the commissioner of police never had a chat with Chief Akinjide for any length of time. The statement also said that the commissioner did not direct Chief Akinjide to report at Lagos nor told him that his name was not included in the list of wanted persons.

The statement was issued to deny the news report contained in yesterday's edition of the *PUNCH* captioned "Akinjide's Escape". The police commissioner said that apart from misinforming the public, the *PUNCH* also attempted to tarnish the image of the Oyo State Police Command.

Sokoto State Parastatal Boards Dissolved

AB111134 Lagos NAN in English 0839 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Sokoto, Jan 10 (NAN) — Boards of all parastatals in Sokoto State have been dissolved "with immediate effect". A statement from the office of head of service today directed all chief executives of the parastatals to assume responsibilities for their operations "until new boards are appointed". The former chairman and board members have been asked to hand over all government property in their possession.

SADCC Draws 378 Million Dollars in Pledges

MB120749 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Investment and donor countries have pledged a new investment amounting to 378 million dollars for industrial projects identified by the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC. The pledges were made in Harare yesterday at the end of a 2-day SADCC industrial project workshop. The Tanzanian minister of industry, Comrade Basil Mramba, says the total commitment so far, including the 240 million dollars announced earlier, is 618 million dollars for 65 projects. Speaking at a joint (?news) conference with the minister of state for industry and technology, Comrade Kumbirai Kangai, the Tanzanian minister said the commitments are for supply of capital goods, technology, engineering, and other commercial inputs for the implementation of core projects. The cabinet minister said the workshop was a major advance in assistance to SADCC countries in developing [words indistinct].

The donor countries at the workshop included India, Sweden, Austria, Australia, Britain, France, Italy, West Germany, Romania, and Portugal. The workshop also reviewed progress made at the Maseru meeting in January last year, and prepared the way for the next donor conference to be held in the Zambian capital of Lusaka next month.

Tanzania Praised for Role

MB111440 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The executive secretary of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC, Comrade Arthur Blumeris, has complimented Tanzania for preparing the successful industrial project workshop taking place in Harare. The workshop is being attended by SADCC member states, donor countries, and agencies from Europe and the United States. Comrade Blumeris said this is the first time that a workshop of this nature involving investors has been arranged for any SADCC program. He expressed satisfaction at the progress being made in implementing SADCC programs, adding that if any have not taken off the ground, it may be because of lack of funding. He announced that the donors' conference, to be held in Lusaka, Zambia, on the 2d and 3d of next month, would be preceded by an internal meeting of the Council of Ministers and bilateral technological discussions between donors and SADCC between 29 January and 1 February. Comrade Blumeris said running concurrently with these events in Lusaka will be a meeting of the nongovernmental organizations from all over the world.

ANGOLA

13 UNITA 'Agents' Reported Killed 1-7 Jan

MB120648 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] In the first week of this month the defense and security forces successfully carried out military actions against the armed gangsters of the puppet gang in the service of Pretoria. In that period our forces killed 13 enemy agents.

In accordance with reports received by ANGOP, the Angolan Armed Forces carried out operations in the areas of (Chipungue) and (Cangumbe) in Balombo municipality and in the (Mutima) and (Queteguela) areas in Chongoroi municipality and completely destroyed a puppet camp called (Banyengo). In these operations our forces captured two gangsters and nine South African-made anti-vehicle landmines and recovered 43 head of cattle which had been stolen from the population. The security and defense forces in Benguela also freed 74 members of the public, 46 of whom were children, from the control of UNITA gangsters.

According to statements made by captured bandits, a climate of disintegration and demoralization prevails in the ranks of the UNITA puppet gang. There is currently great tribal rivalry in the ranks of bandits and many will eventually surrender to the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola because, they said, nobody has the will to fight for a cause which does not serve the interests of the Angolan people.

Military Induction Plans for February Announced

MB111552 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The Defense Ministry yesterday issued a document signed by Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, the holder of the portfolio on conscription and recruitment of individuals for the Armed Forces. According to the document, all citizens born between 1 January and 31 December 1968 must enroll during the months of January and February at the existing centers in their residential areas, as well as all those who were born in previous years but have not yet enrolled. In addition, citizens born during 1959 and 1965, as well as those possessing postponement permits which have expired, must report at recruitment centers in February for military induction. The document from the Defense Ministry also points out that individuals born between 1 January 1960 and 31 December 1964 who have not yet reported must also present themselves in February.

Defense Minister Tonha Interviewed by *IZVESTIYA*

For an interview by the Soviet newspaper *IZVESTIYA* with Defense Minister Pedro Maria Tonha on the South African incursion into Angola, see the Sub-Saharan Africa section of the 12 January Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT*.

LESOTHO

Catholic Newspaper Apologizes to Prime Minister

MB111104 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The Roman Catholic Church newspaper *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO* has made a couple of apologies in connection with the errors appearing in its publications of the past months. In its

publication of 15 January 1984, *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO* apologizes to the prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, for defaming his name and character in its article entitled "Racial Discrimination in Lesotho," published on 30 October 1983. *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO* says the article was published without the knowledge of the authorities of the paper, and the authorities do not in any way commit themselves to the publication.

Again, *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO* apologizes for the article in connection with a case between Mr (Manyele) and the honorable ministers Montsi Makhele and Desmond Sixishe, appearing in the 23 October 1983 publication. *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO* says it carries the full blame for the publication and apologizes to the high court of Lesotho, and specifically to Mr Justice (D.K. Molai).

MOELETSI WA BASOTHO also apologizes for misquoting Chieftainess Maseiso Majara on 9 December last year. In its publication of 25 December last year, *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO* said Chieftainess Maseiso Majara appealed to the South African refugee community in Lesotho to teach them the way of guns, since the refugees were already engaged in war. Chieftainess Maseiso Majara had said the refugee community in Lesotho are fighting a justified cause because they demand their rights from the Pretoria regime. However, Chietainess Maseiso said they should fight their cause with respect and bravery.

In a separate article appearing in the 15 January publication, *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO* says it is bound to change its policies of publication because of the unfortunate experiences by the paper in its last year's publications. *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO* says the paper has been forced to appear in court for defaming the characters of certain people and felt forced to apologize thereafter. *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO* says in the future it will no longer rely on information supplied by the people who write to them but are not known facially to the authorities of the newspaper.

Sixishe Commends Paper's Apologies

MB112020 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The apology made to the prime minister, Dr Jonathan, which appears in the front page of the latest edition of *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO* was a clear vindication of the prime minister's name and a firm confirmation of Dr Jonathan's clear credentials and *bona fides*. This was said this morning by the minister for information and broadcasting, the Honorable D.T. Sixishe, in reaction to the apologies printed in the newspaper.

Mr Sixishe said that the exercise of freedom of the press will always be protected in Lesotho because the judicial system in its independence provided the checks and balances that made it possible for those who use this freedom as a licence to abuse others, as was the case with *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO*, to be brought to book. Mr Sixishe said that the published articles that finally led to the apologies made to the prime minister, Mr Justice (B.M. Molai), and the president of the Women's Self-Help Organization, were part of an alarming pattern of very low-level journalism which readers have been subjected to by *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO*. The principle of verifiable information which was cardinal to the editorial policies of ethical editors was blatantly absent in the columns of *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO*, and one hopes that the lessons learnt by *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO* will force that paper to exercise its responsibility of providing its readers with dignified information. *MOELETSI*, more than any other journal, owes this to its readers, as it was closely associated to the church, the minister concluded.

MOZAMBIQUE

New Ambassador to U.S. Calls For Aid to SADCC

MB111956 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Valeriano Ferrao, Mozambique's ambassador in the United States, said that the political dialogue that has already been held between the Mozambique and American authorities at the various levels has already followed a positive path. The Mozambique diplomat, who was speaking during the ceremony for the presentation of his credentials to the U.S. President, said that at the moment it is important to make the best of the opportunities that have been created, as well as the existing potential and capabilities in order to strengthen relations between the two countries in the various fields. He said that the steps that have so far been taken in this regard are a proof of the positive development of the relationship between Mozambique and the United States.

During his speech, Valeriano Ferrao said that the independent states in southern Africa have joined forces in the framework of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, with the knowledge that bilateral cooperation will lead to a better use of their natural resources and a greater economic stability. The People's Republic of Mozambique would take great pleasure to see the United States join this effort for peace, stability, and regional cooperation among the various African states, Ambassador Valeriano Ferrao said. The Mozambique ambassador to the United States also said that the desires and efforts for economic development and the well-being of the peoples of southern Africa are opposed by the war and insecurity caused by the destabilizing policy of the South African Government resulting from the apartheid system. On the occasion he referred to the violent repression to which the majority of the South African people are subject, and the invasion and occupation of a part of the Angolan territory, in addition to the activities carried out by the armed bandits who operate in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho and are trained, armed, and led by the racist Pretoria regime.

RSA's 'Barbaric Assault' on Angola Condemned

MB112010 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United Nations Security Council has demanded the

withdrawal of South African troops from Angola, with only Britain and the United States abstaining. Pretoria rejected the resolution but announced that it was beginning to withdraw its troops anyway, as they had completed their missinon. The full extent of this withdrawal remains to be seen, as South African forces have been occupying a considerable area of southern Angola for the past 2 1/2 years.

However, one question that needs to be answered is: What was the real purpose of this latest aggression? Pretoria would have us believe that it was a hot-pursuit exercise aimed at concentrations of SWAPO guerrillas who were preparing to infiltrate their own country, Namibia. This is a story we have heard before — preemptive stikes against Lesotho, retaliatory action against Mozambique — all launched in response to the internal contradictions of the apartheid system. The story this time is a little different, but it is equally easy to demolish the South Africa case simply by using South Africa's own figures. Pretoria claimed there were 1,400 SWAPO guerrillas preparing to cross into Namibia and reckons to have killed 56 of them. We can evenly decide the fact that both Angola and SWAPO say there were no guerrillas in the area and therefore no SWAPO casualties. We can evenly decide the fact that South African claims are notoriously exaggerated when it comes to the number they have killed.

We all remember last May — the air raid on Matola — when Pretoria claimed to have killed 40-odd ANC members in a base, when the reality was three dead Mozambican civilians in a jam factory. No, let us take Pretoria's claims at face value. Some 4,000 South African troops supported by 100 aircraft stormed into Angola, spent more than a month there and only managed to kill 56 members of SWAPO, leaving more than 1,300 waiting to cross into Namibia. Surely not, and the South Africans have admitted that 21 of their own soldiers have been killed. Not a very sparkling performance.

What was the real purpose of this latest violation of Angola's territory? As the Mozambican Government communique pointed out, the attack came at a time when South Africa's surrogate force in Angola, UNITA, was reeling in the face of a massive military offensive by the Angolan Armed Forces. With the possibility of a disengagement between the Angolan defense force and the South African invaders at the end of this month, Pretoria could not afford to leave its puppets in such a weakened position. So, what we have seen for the past 5 weeks has been not hot pursuit of SWAPO but a barbaric assault on Angola defense forces with the aim of giving UNITA a breathing space — an assault lauched with the sole purpose of continuing the destabilization of Angola.

NAMIBIA

Text of SWAPO Statement on Cease-Fire Talks

MB111749 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1725 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Windhoek, Jan 11, SAPA — Following is the text of the statement issued by SWAPO concerning ceasefire negotiations with South Africa:

1. Massive propaganda statements have come out of Pretoria over the past weekend. In these statements, the apartheid regime has continued to repeat the lie that it has been fighting the combined forces of the Angolan Army, SWAPO and Cubans. The statements have also asserted that the racist army has killed over 400 SWAPO, Cuban and Angolan soldiers at the loss of only 27 of their own soldiers.

SWAPO would like to restate the fact, which it has already made public, that there were definitely no SWAPO fighters involved in the one-month fight which the South African Army unleashed against the Angolan military position in the areas of Mulondo, Cuvelai, Kahama, and Caiundo in southern Angola.

Furthermore, SWAPO would like to categorically deny that members of its armed forces were among the 400 or so people the racist army reported to have killed in the above mentioned areas, during the recent massive South African military aggression against Angola.

The claim by Pretoria that SWAPO, Cubans and Angolan forces are fighting together against South African invasion force is calculated to give credence to the widely-rejected linkage position of South Africa and us. In other words, if the racist regime could succeed to convince the world that SWAPO, Cubans and the Angolan Army are integrated, then the world should accept the linkage thesis of Pretoria and Washington.

It is against this background that SWAPO would like to reemphasise the objective fact that SWAPO armed cadres were most certainly not in any way involved in the recent fighting in southern Angola. The fight was strictly between the defending Angolan Army and the invading South African forces.

2. The South African propaganda machinery has also been telling the world, beginning the past weekend, that the regime is ready to have direct talks with SWAPO, something which Pretoria has consistently refused to do hitherto, SWAPO hopes that Pretoria is now serious and that its announcement that the so-called administrator-general, the colonial govenor in Namibia, will meet SWAPO for direct talks is genuine. We hope that the direct talks will not be a replay of the January 1981 Geneva talks, when South Africa turned the conference into a public relations charade by instigating its Namibian puppets to herald insults and abuses at SWAPO, the UN and independent Africa.

While SWAPO has no intention of interfering with how the South African delegations will be composed, our stand-point is that the proposed talks are welcome and must strictly and solely deal with the issue of ceasefire. The identity and responsibility of political organisations are provided for in the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 435, to whose implementation the ceasefire agreement must lead. The arena of exchange of views among Namibian political parties and organisations will be the election campaign period.

Therefore, SWAPO hopes that no issues unrelated to the proposed ceasefire should be injected in the proposed talks to which SWAPO has agreed to participate.

Ever conscious of its responsibility to the Namibian people and

aware of the untold agony afflicting the Namibian nation under the yoke of apartheid oppression, SWAPO calls upon South Africa, through the UN secretary-general, to immediately set a definite date for the ceasefire talks.

SOUTH AFRICA

SADF Avers Pullout Under Way After De Cuellar Report

MB120805 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The secretary general of the United Nations, Dr Perez de Cuellar, says he has been told by Angola that South African troops have shown no sign of withdrawing after their recent operations in southern Angola. In a resolution last week, the Security Council of the United Nations called for the immediate withdrawal of South African troops.

In his report to the Security Council, Dr de Cuellar said that the South African ambassador to the world organization, Mr Kurt von Schirnding, rejected the resolution. He said that the Angolan delegate, Mr de Figueiredo, had informed him that there had been no fundamental change in the military situation in southern Angola, contrary to a South African statement that a pullback had begun.

In his report Dr de Cuellar said that Mr Figueiredo claimed that South African forces continue to conduct operations and to occupy parts of southern Angola in violation of Angolan sovereignty and territorial integrity. Dr de Cuellar said he would continue to monitor the situation closely and to keep the Security Council informed of any important development.

According to the United Nations resolution, the Security Council must meet to consider punitive action against South Africa under the sanctions provisions of the United Nations charter, where South Africa rejects its demands.

A South African Defense Force spokesman has said in Pretoria that the position remains as stated by the minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, on Sunday that South African forces have begun withdrawing from Angolan battle areas.

Pik Botha Finds SWAPO Response on Talks 'Petulant'

MB111612 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1610 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Pretoria, Jan 11, SAPA — The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, tonight accused SWAPO of making "cheap propaganda points" in its response to South Africa's indication that it had no objection to talks between SWAPO and a delegation led by the administrator-general of SWA/Namibia on a ceasefire. And he warned that there would be no point in South Africa continuing with the exercise if SWAPO chose to respond in "such a provocative manner to South Africa's efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the SWA/Namibian question."

Mr Botha was responding in a statement in Pretoria to a statement issued by SWAPO in New York and London today regarding direct talks with South Africa on a ceasefire in SWA/Namibia. He said the South African Government was not yet in possession of the full text of the statement. "However, if press reports concerning the statement are correct, the South African Government must conclude that SWAPO has chosen to make cheap propaganda points in its response to South Africa's indication that it would have no objection to discussions between SWAPO and a delegation led by the administrator-general," Mr Botha said.

He said that, in its handling of the matter, the South African Government had deliberately refrained from making derogatory remarks. "It is disappointing that SWAPO has reacted in such a petulant manner." It should be recalled that it was not the South African Government that wished to hold talks. "The South African Government was merely reacting to a proposal by SWAPO," Mr Botha said. "However, if SWAPO choses to respond in such a provocative manner to South Africa's efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the SWA/Namibian question, then the South African Government cannot see much point in continuing with this exercise," the foreign minister said.

SWAPO Condition Said Stumbling Block to Talks

MB111250 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1147 GMT 11 Jan 84

[By Peter Wilson]

[Excerpt] London, Jan 11, SAPA — SWAPO last night agreed to join direct talks with South Africa aimed at achieving a cease-fire in SWA/Namibia and Angola, but laid down the crucial condition that an end to the fighting must launch the implementation of Resolution 435, the UN plan for the territory's independence.

That condition appears to mean that there will be little point in talking unless the government is prepared to implement the plan — which it refuses to do until Cuban forces leave Angola.

SWAPO's statement, issued from its Luanda headquarters, called on South Africa, through the UN, to "immediately set a definite date for the cease-fire talks."

SWAPO accepted Pretoria's offer to meet a delegation led by the administrator-general of SWA/Namibia and said it would not "interfere" in the composition of the delegation.

But the statement added: "The identity and responsibility of political organisations are provided for in the provisions of Resolution 435, to whose implementation the cease-fire agreement must lead."

In London, SWAPO's West European information officer, Mr Peter Manning, told SAPA: "What we are saying is that we are prepared to enter cease-fire talks with the South African delegation, but the cease-fire to be discussed must be the first step in the implementation of Resolution 435.

"If South Africa is simply going to use the opportunity to raise further obstacles, they may as well say now that they are not

prepared to implement the resolution."

He made it clear that SWAPO would not talk about the Cuban issue. "Our attitude remains that the presence of Cubans in Angola has nothing to do with implementation," he said.

SWAPO's standpoint is clearly linked to that of the Angolan Government, which responded to a South African offer of a 30-day disengagement by stating earlier this month that it would accept a truce only if Pretoria promised to implement the settlement plan within 15 days of the cease-fire beginning.

The SWAPO statement apparently accepted the presence in a South Africa delegation of representatives from the internal SWA/Namibian parties. But it warned: "We hope that the direct talks will not be a replay of the January 1981 Geneva talks, when South Africa turned the conference into a public relations charade."

SWAPO: RSA Noncompliance 'Arrogant'

MB121348 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] SWAPO has issued a call to the world regarding South Africa. The call is in response to a statement issued yesterday by the South African foreign minister, Pik Botha. SWAPO has called on the world to take note of what it calls South Africa's unwillingness to comply with the UN plan for Namibian independence. SWAPO's West European information officer, Peter Manning, accuses South Africa of blunt and arrogant refusal to comply with the implementation of Resolution 435.

Togo-Led Clemency Effort for ANC Member Rejected

MB120809 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] South Africa has rejected as unwarranted interference a request by African delegates to the United Nations for a Security Council meeting to try to obtain clemency for an ANC member, (Benjamin Malasela), who is under sentence of death for murder. The South African ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Kurt von Schirnding, said in a letter to the secretary general that the case related to the common-law crime of murder.

He said that in June last year (Malasela) was convicted on his own confession, confirmed by independent evidence, of the murder of a policeman, Mr (Phillipa Selepe), in November 1982. Mr von Schirnding also pointed out that although (Malasela) had been refused leave to appeal, he could still technically be pardoned by the state president. The minister of justice could issue an execution order only after the state president had made his decision.

Members of the Security Council met behind closed doors yesterday to discuss the request by Togo for an urgent meeting. The meeting is expected to be held tomorrow.

Swaziland, Kangwane Invited to 14 Feb Border Talks

MB111533 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The Governments of South Africa, Swaziland, and the South African national state of Kangwane, as well as the Transvaal Provincial Administration have been asked by a commission to give evidence regarding the Swaziland border in Pretoria on 14 February. The commission was appointed by the state president last year to investigate and report on claims by Swaziland of territory belonging to Kangwane. A similar commission was appointed last year to investigate similar territorial claims affecting Ingwavuma in the national state of Kwazulu.

ANC Secretary Nzo Derides Tricameral Parliament

MB090913 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The African National Congress of South Africa has described the 3-tier system of government being introduced by the racists in that country as a failure. General Secretary Alfred Nzo described the introduction of the 3-chamber parliamentary system of government among the whites, the Coloreds, and Indians as a betrayal of the majority of the people in that country.

Speaking on Television Zambia last night, the South African leaders said that for South Africa to be free and democratic the system must be scrapped. He said the Colored and Asian leaders, who were part of the system, had betrayed their constituents because they had failed to explain the true picture to their followers.

Mr Nzo, who was speaking on the occasion of his movement's 72d anniversary, which fell yesterday, said even people in the so-called homelands were against the South African regime. He said racist South Africa was spending millions of kwacha to show that things were well inside that country, but the international community has realized these lies.

ANC Wants Prisoner-of-War Status for Guerrillas

MB120623 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1700 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The ANC is to demand that its guerrillas captured by South African forces be given prisoner-of-war status in line with the Geneva Convention. An urgent meeting of the UN Security Council is to be held on the issue. An ANC official in Lusaka explains the stance the organization is likely to adopt:

[Begin recording] These are people who are engaged in military combat, which is recognized in terms of the Geneva Convention as a conflict which falls within the scope of the provisions of the Geneva Convention governing military conflict. And, therefore, the captured guerrillas of Umkhonto we Sizwe ought to be treated as prisoners of war, in addition to which, of course, you know that the ANC signed those conventions. [end recording]